श्री ईश दत्त यादव: इसके विरोध में शांतिमय ढंग से बैठे हुए थे और पुलिस ने वहां के एस० एच० ओ० ने...(**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभापति: बैठिए। आप बैठिए।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: वहां के एस० एच० ओ० ने लोगों के उपर लाठी चार्ज कराया, फायरिंग... (**व्यवधान**)...सैकड़ों कार्यकर्ता घायल है। हमारे वहां एक नेता श्री शारदानन्द अंचटन जो पूर्व मंत्री हैं, वह बुरी तरह से घायल हैं इस तरह से मैडम...

उपसभापति: रवि जी बोलिए, कालिंग अटेंशन।...(**व्यवधान**)...Let us not discuss it...*(Interruptions)*...Sit down, please.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: इस तरह से उत्तर प्रदेश के अंदर समाजवादी पार्टी के कार्यकर्ताओं का उत्पीड़न हो रहा है।

उपसभापति: बैठिए। ईश दत्त जी बैठ जाइए। आप बैठिए।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: उनकी हत्याएं की जा रही हैं। सरकार के इशारे पर कराई जा रही है। उन निर्दोश लोगों को जेल में डाला जा रहा है।

उपसभापति: आप बैठिए। आप बैठ जाइए। ईश दत्त जी आप नहीं बैठेंगे तो nothing will go record...*(Interruptions)*...Nothing will go on record...*(Interruptions)*...It is not going on record.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव:*

THE DEPTY CHAIRMAN: This will not be reported in the Press....(Interruptions)...I will adjourn the House if you do not sit down. I caution you to sit down; otherwise, I will adjourn the House...*(Interruptions)*...I adjourn the House for half an hour.

The House then adjourned at ninteen minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at fifty minutes past twelve of the clock.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES) *in the Chair.*

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Diversion funds to the tune of Rs. 4,500 crores To Personal Ledger Account by West Bengal Government

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment to the diverson of funds to the tune of Rs. 4,500 crores to the Personal Ledger Account by the West Bengal Government.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K YERRANAIDU): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in response to the Calling Attention regarding diversion of funds to the tune of Rs. 4,500 crores to Personal Ledger Account by the West Bengal Government by Shri Vayalar Ravi and Syed Sibtey Razi and others, I would like to submit that this House is aware, a number of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation schemes are implemented by my Ministry. The expenditure under these schemes is shared between the Central Government and the State Governments. In the case of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) the expenditure is shared between the Central Government and the State Governments in the ratio of 80:20. In the case of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), the expenditure is shared between the Central Government and the State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

Central share of the funds is released in two instalments. The first instalment is released on an ad hoc basis and the second instalment is released after various conditions including utilisation of at least 50% of the available funds, the release of State share of funds, submission of Audit Report for the previous year and Certificate that there were no major irregularities like embezzlement of funds etc., are fulfilled. In the event of

*Not recorded.

any deficiency either the second instalment is not released or various cuts are imposed in the amount released.

Except in the case of States of Karnataka, West Bengal, Rejasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, the funds under JRY are directly released to the District Rural Development Agencies. The funds under the other schemes are all released to the District Rural Development agencies in all the States except Karnataka. In Karnataka, funds are released to the Zilla Parishads directly by the Centre

In the case of West Bengal the funds released under JRY to the State are in turn placed by them with the Zilla Parishads. As per the relevant Act and Rules of the West Bengal Government, the Zilla Parishads are required to keep all their receipts including grants received from the State and the Central Government in the Local Fund Account in the Treasury. On receipt of these funds the Zilla Parishads retain 20% and remit the remaining 80% to the Gram Panchayats. The Gram Panchayats keep their funds in the banks. From 1996-97, Panchayat Samitis have been provided with 15% of JRY funds. Correspondingly, the share of Gram Panchayats has been reduced to 65%.

C&AG has submitted to the West Bengal Government and the Legislature Report Civil No. 3 and Report Civil No. 4 for the year ended 31.3.96. The Report Civil No. 3 contains the points raised by the C&AG based on the audit of the financial transactions of the Departments of Government of West Bengal. Report Civil No. 4 contains the C&AG's points on the audit in respect of financial assistance given to local bodies and other autonomous authorities. In both these reports there is no reference to withdrawal of Rs. 4,500 crores from the Consolidated Fund by the West Bengal Government and keeping it in the Personal Ledger Account. In so far as this Ministry is concerned, Report No. 3 contains the C&AG's points on the implementation of the Employment Assurance Scheme and Report No. 4 contains points on the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

The C&AG in his Report No. 3 has pointed out that the EAS funds were deposited in non interest bearing Personal Ledger Account with the Treasury resulting in a loss of Rs. 37.59 lakhs in the case of three Zilla Parishads for the period 1993—96 in violation of the guidelines which require that these funds are to be kept in exclusive and separate Savings Bank Account. The C&AG has reported in his Report No. 4 that in the case of 4 Zilla Parishads JRY funds were kept in non-interest-bearing Personal Ledger Account in the Treasury during the period 1989—96 resulting in a loss of interest of Rs. 3.77 crores in violation of the guidelines which require that these funds are to be kept in a separate and exclusive Savings Bank Account. Similary, in the case of another Zilla Parishad Rs. 1.43 crores was transferred from the Bank account to the Personal Ledger Account of the Account of the Parishad.

In so far as diversion of funds is concerned, in Report No. 3 the C&AG has pointed out that EAS funds to the tune of Rs. 1.89 crores were utilised in 2 Zila Parishads for other purposes during 1993—96. Similarly, in the Report Civil No.4, the C&AG has pointed out diversion of Rs. 2.76 crores of JRY funds for purposes other than those which are specified in JRY.

As mentioned by me above, in West Bengal, the funds of the Zila Parishads and of the Panchayat Samitis are required to be credited to the Local Fund Account to be kept in the Treasury as per West Bengal Zilla Parishad Act, 1973 and the West Bengal Zila Parishad (election, constitution and administration) Rules 1964. The Local Fund Account forms a distinct and separate category in the Public Account of the State and is different from the Personal Ledger Accounts opened in the name of individuals and institutions after following proper procedure. The Government of West Bengal have clarified that the Local Fund Account of

the Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis is losely referred to as PL Accounts.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, these points made by the C&AG in respect of West Bengal Legislature will be taken up by the PAC, West Bengal who will submit their final report after considering the clarifications and justification given by the West Bengal Government. If after these considerations any diversion or misuse is established, appropriate action including recoupment of the diverted amount will be taken.

Government of West Bengal have also reported that two cases of public interest litigation on this matter are pending in the High Court of West Bengal and that the matter is sub-judice.

This is the information given by the West Bengal Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Now, I will put the matter for discussion. Mr. Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Thank you, Sir. The statement made by the hon. Minister consists of half-truths and it evades crucial issues mentioned in the Report. It may be an attempt to cover up. The PL Account is not a new one for the West Bengal Government. It is meant for specific purposes, say, for some emrgency or for some unforeseen circumstances. But, the question referred to in the Report is how to open a PL Account. I quote from the Report. The CAG in this regard says:

> "In terms of Provisions under S.R. 410 of WBTR, Vol.-I, a Personal Deposit PL Account may be opened with the prior approval of the Government (Finance Department and concurrence of the Pr. AG(A&E), West Bengal. In most of the Treasuries it was observed that such accounts were opened and operated upon without the concurrence of the Pr. AG (A&E), West Bengal."

This is the crux of the point. Opening of such...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA (Punjab): Why are they unnecessarily interrupting?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): What is the point of information?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, I want to know what the Report is.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): If you want a point of information, you will have a chance. Let him complete now...*(Interruptions)*... Let him complete now...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Nilotpal, please don't disturb him. Let him complete. State Government did not provide enough protection to the staff of the AG for them to have an examination of the accounts whenever they wanted. This is an important point. Why there has been this failure on the part of the State Government to co-operate with the AG's staff is another important question.

I agree with you. You have quoted from the laws. But what I am going to point out is that the State Government had failed. they tried to cover up. this is the point I am making. I do not want to take the time of the House by quoting the rules, by saying how much has been drawn, etc. But there is one particular thing from the AG's report which talks about the unspent amounts. You have not noticed it. A lot of money is involed. I am coming to it. It is the crux of the point. This is what the AG's report says:

> "From the scrutiny of the Finance Accounts for the years from 1990-91 to 1994-95, it was revealed that at the end of each year, huge amount was lying unspent in such unauthorised PL Accounts as shown below:

1990-91	Rs. 1,509.64 crores
1991-92	Rs. 1,747.21 crores
1992-93	Rs. 1,628.00 crores

1993-94	Rs. 2,965,00 crores
1994-95	Rs. 2,615.00 crores

Look at the observation of the AG. This is very important. These accounts were not closed. This is what the AG says. These accounts were not closed. The AG further says: para 8.3—I quote:

> "Further, it was disclosed that substantial portion of the above-stated unspent amount related to the Fund provided in the Budget for implementation of various projects under JRY and EAS".

You say 'few amounts'. These are not few amounts. The AG has mentioned here. These are huge amounts. For example, for the year 1994-95, the amount runs into Rs. 2,615 crores. According to para 8.3...

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I would like to know from the hon. Member as to which AG's report he is referring to. There is one audit by the West Bengal Govenment. Then, our reports are there.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: This is the 'Annual Review on the Working of the Treasuries in West Bengal, for the period 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95'. This is by the Accountant-General (A&E), West Bengal.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Which year?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: This is for the period from 1990-91 to 1994-95. it means, you are concerned only with the year, not with the money.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I am quoting from the AG's Report. I am prepared to place it before the House. The opening of such unauthorised PL Accounts have been increasing day by day in West Bengal. The figures are shown in the Report. But, I am not quoting them because a lot of things have been said here.

[1.00 P.M.]

These unauthorised accounts are being operated for the last more than six years; since 1990-91; the amounts coming under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Employment Assurance Scheme.

Sir, I would like to point out here that there are certain mandatory provisions and rules concerning the operation of this accounts. One of the mandatory provisions is that the account should be closed at the end of every year. But they never closed the account. This is a very important thing. The account should be closed at the end of every year. They never closed it. They carried on with the account. The money is supposed to be remitted back to the treasury. It was not remitted back. This is one thing.

Secondly, the DDOs., i.e. the Drawing and Disbursing Officers, are the persons who are in charge of this amount. As per the mandatory provision, as per the treasury rule, nobody can draw, at a time, more than Rs. 2,500. If you want to draw, at a time, more than Rs. 2,500 at a time, there is a certain other procedure. But, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in Burdwan District, it was found, a sum of Rs. 27 lakhs was drawn at one time. Therefore, the rule has been violated for the purpose of diversion of funds. this is the point.

The AG has also pointed out another thing in regard to examination of the cash chests. There were 2,500 cash chests. Out of these, the AG examined fifteen. It was found that the discrepancy in these fifteen was of the order of Rs. 50 lakhs. Out of 2,500, in fifteen cases, the discrepancy was found to be of the order of Rs. 50 lakhs.

Then, Sir, the AG wanted to have a surprise check. A surprise check could be done only with the asistance of the State Government and the Police. But it has been reported that there was no-Co-coperation from the State Government. The AG had enough material. But the AG could not go for the check becuase the DDOs. never co-operated. The DDOs. are the custodians of the money. They are the persons who are in charge of the accounts. They refused to co-opearte with the staff of the AG. The

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Has it been published, or, has it been submitted to the Government?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You check up.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I would like to know whether it is an official report, or, he has concocted a report.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, please sit down. I think the Member is not yielding. Please sit down. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: He is going to lay the papers on the Table. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): (Singlaji, please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I will place them on the Table. If I am misleading the House, definitely you can proceed against me. It will be a privilege issue. If you permit me, I am prepared to lay these papers on the Table of the House. The Members can also examine them.

This is the most important thing. The hon. Minister overlooked these figures. Further, it says;

> "A substantial portion of the above stated unspent amount related to funds provided in the Budget for implementation of projects under JRY and Employment Assurance Scheme."

It further states:

> "From the above facts, it is inferred that
>
> "(1) The Department used to open and operate such PL accounts under deposit heads in contravention of the provisions laid down in SRs 410 and 411 of the West Bengal Treasury Rules, Volume I."

The second thing is most important. That is about the unspent money. Some of the records say that it is expenditure. It is Rs. 2,615 crores. It starts from 1991. This report says:

> "The said unspent balance appear in the books of accounts as expenditure incurred."

And this is most important:

> "But no such expenditure was incurred at all."

This is it. If I am wrong, I am prepared to apologise for it. This is the report. I repeat:

> "The said unspent balance appeared in the books of accounts as expenditure incurred. But no such expenditure was incurred at all."

According to the report, this is running into thousands of crores. This is the crux of the point.

How has the money been diverted? This is very important. For example, there was inspection of the accounts of the Burdwan District by the Inspection Wing. The report says:

> "The utilisation certificate was issued by the Government Authorities.

How much was this district given? The money was given for digging 1,000 wells. The certificate was issued. But, on examination, it was found that there were not even 900 wells. What happened to 900 wells? What happened to the money?

Then, another case is that in the Burdwan District, a PL account was opened by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer. He drew Rs. 1.14 crores but did not account for it.

Another case is that Rs. 27 lakhs was drawn by another person in the same district, the Burdwan District, for the purpose of a hospital. What did they purchase? Only two tables. What happened to the money? No one knows it.

I am pointing out only a few examples of how the utilisation certificate was issued by the Government authorities without spending the money. When inspection was done at a few places in some districts, it was found that no money had

been spent but the certificate, it was found that no money had been spent but the certificate had been issued. The money was pocketed by somebody. the bureaucrat-politician nexus has operated very well for the last ix years. All this money has been diverted. This is the question. This serious developments has taken place from 1991 on wards.

I am not accusing any Minister or anybody else. I am asking only this. Why have the DDOs been given so much of freedom? Why has the account not been closed according to the rules? Why has the account not been closed according to the rules? Why was the money transferred to the Treasury? When the A.G. wanted an inspection by his staff, why did the Government of West Bengal not extend support of those officers to do inspection, to find out the fraud and fraudulent method of diverting the public money? Thousands of crores has been diverted in that manner. According to the report, unspent amount has been shown as incurred expenditure, and the money has been diverted. Is it not a crime? Is it not a matter to be enquired into by the Criminal Bureau of Investigation? This is the point.

It is very clear from the inspection report that the amount was taken for digging a thousand wells, but not even hundred wells were dug. Where has the money gone? Like this I can give many examples. So, it has been clearly established that there is a nexus between politicians and bureaucrates. The DDOs are the authorities to open an operating account and the PL account. They have been protected by the Government itself and by the politicians. They have been given protection. This huge amount has been siphoned off. Just now the hon. Minister has assured this House that he would look into the matter and an enquiry would be ordered and action would be taken. He said it just now. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What kind of enquiry is the proposing? So, I suggest to the hon. Minister the only agency which can enquire into this matter is—as all people are praising the CBI—is the CBI I want to know about this from the hon. Minister.

According to the hon. Minister's statement about Rs. 46 crores has been lost on account of interest. So, that also has gone to misappropriation account. I am not referring to the State Assembly debate or bypassing anything. Sir, the PL account is the best method of bypassing an audit. It is the best method of bypassing an an independent agency like the Accountant General. It is the best method of diverting funds and using them as they wish without an audit, siphoning off the funds, to keep off the Accountant General and to keep off the C&AG. According to the article 202 of the Constitution, they have been bypassed. Huge amounts have been diverted. The hon. Minister has promised in this House that the only way to find out the truth is to have a thorough enquiry and find out where the money has gone and who the beneficiaries were. It is a large net. The hon. Minister has assured this House that an enquriry will be conducted. I wish that the CBI is authorised to enquire into this matter and justice be done to the people of West Bengal. Thank you.

Dr. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We want to listen to the Members of the Congress party and Members of other parties without any interruption. When our Members speak from this side there should not be any interruption from the other side also. Let there be no interruptions in this debate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Before I call upon the next speaker, I want to take the sense of the House.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Is he running the House? Why should he make such a statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Singlaji, one minute please. I want to take the sense of the House. It is twelve minutes past one of the clock. The House has

already adjourned for half an hour. Should we have a lunch-break or not?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. We can continue.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have listened to my hon. friend, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, what his accuations were and what the report from which he was reading was. He has only stated that accounts are opened without concurrence of the C&AG. opening an account without concurrence of the C&AG. doesn't mean that the account was unauthorised. Secondly. he says that the disbursing officers were allowed to open the account. Normally that is what is done not only in West Bengal but in other places too. Thirdly, he has said that money was unspent. yes, the money was unspent because the money was sent to the Government of West Bengal only in the middle of March. A large part of the money for the development work was sent to the Government only during the last part or in the middle of March. Therefore, the question is there is no evidence at all of any illegitimacy. If at all there is evidene, it is the diversion of funds which, of course, the Government of West Bengal has very well accepted.

If there is any evidence, it is the evidence that the late arrival of funds has resulted in the continuation of the accounts. The accounts could have been closed. The money could have been sent back and the Government could have sought revalidation of the scheme. That would have resulted in suspension of the development work in the months of March, April and May for three to four years. Instead of taking recourse to allowing the fund to be suspended, the Government had withdrawn the fund, kept it in the P.L. Account to enable the authorities to carry on the development work. This was done in the interest of the common people.

Sir, the point is, if West Bengal is singularly responsible for all these irregularities or the same practice is followed elsewhere also. Therefore, Sir, I rise to speak with a sense of hurt feelings, because the funds have been diverted. According to the Government of India's Answer to Question No. 102, this House has discussed this question. It has been clearly stated that 13 States had diverted their funds. This is the statement given by the hon. Minister. The largest diversion has taken placc in Uttar Pradesh. Equally large diversions have been done in a number of other States, including Tamil Nadu. Sir, Maybe, diversion of funds had been the lowest in West Bengal, but I do not try to get any satisfaction from that. If diversion of funds is the issue, then the Motion should have been tabled to seek information about all the diversions that have taken place in all the States. Therefore, the question is what information is sought from the Government. If it is relating to diversion of funds, then why the calling Attention Motion had not been tabled with regard to 13 States. Why is it that West Bengal has been singled out? Since West Bengal has been singled out, I have a feeling that the intention of the Mover is not genuine. Excuse me, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, if you had concern tor diversion of funds, if you had concern for financial discipline, if you had concern for the so-called malpractices going on in different parts of the country, then it should not have been selective. It should have been general in nature. Therefore, West Bengal has been singled out, because there is a motive behind the move, which is malacious. The intention is not to find the facts, but to malign the Governemt for West Bengal.

At the outset, Sir, let me make it very clear that the Government of West Bengal stands for transparency. Let there be an inquiry. We are ready to stand an inquiry.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Then ask for a C.B.I. inquiry.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the point is why the Government of West Bengal should call for a C.B.I. inquiry.

The great leader of your party in West Bengal fighting for discipline and legitimacy had approached the apex court of West Bengal.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: If you are willing to face an inquiry, what is the harm in asking for a C.B.I. inquiry?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I seek your protection. If I am interrupted, I would not take part in the discussion. Mr. Singla does not have the singular right to interrupt the Members while the discussion is going on.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, there cannot be two principles. Either there should be no interruptions or there wil be interruptions from all sides.

THE VICE-CHAIEMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Biplab Ji, you know that interruption is the order of the day in the House. So, I cannot tell any Member not to, but.... (*Interruptions*) Order, please. Singla Ji, Your name is here. You will have an opportunity to speak and to reply. So, Please, sit down.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, he said that the Government of West Bengal is willing to face any inquiry. I said, why does he not ask for a C.B.I. inquiry?. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Kindly take your seats now. Mr. Gurudas Das gupta, please continue.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The point I was making is that an hon. Member of the other House had approached the apex Court of West Bengal. The petition was for a CBI inquiry. It was heard by a single-member Bench of the High Court. Ultimately, it is a Division Bench which has given the order. And the order is that the Court does not feel that there should be a CBI inquiry on the basis of the facts presented to the Court by the hon. Member of the other House. Secondly, there was another attempt. They had suggested that there should be a special CAG investigation. With that also, the Court did not agree. The Court said that there should be a normal inquiry. It is for the learned Court to decide. If the hon. High Court takes a decision, We stand by that. Why should the Government of West Bengal take upon itself the onus of ordering an inquiry? We are not the accused. We did not commit any wrong. Neither any irregularity has been proved, nor does the CAG report say that there has been a diversion of funds for party funds. Nobody has said that the fund was diverted for a party or a political purpose. If there is no single faintest piece of evidence of a genuine allegation, there is no *prima facie case* at all. Why should we take upon ourselves the onus just to satisfy the hon. Member of the other House? Therefore, the case is one of diversion, one of variation of the Government guidelines. The Government of West Bengal has admitted to the diversion. We do not seek to cover up. There is no intention on the part of the West Bengal Government to cover up any illegitimacy if it had been perpetrated at any level. They have said, "Yes, there has been a diversion." Thirdly, the PAC, the Public Accounts Committee, of West Bengal is looking into it. Fourthly, a petition is pending before the High Court of Calcutta. Therefore, the point is that there is no trace of illegitimacy. Misutilisation is not misappropriation. 'Misutilisation' is the word used and not 'misappropriation'.

In this context, therefore, may I submit that the genuineness of the Motion would have been well established if attention was drawn to the diversion of funds that took place in all the 13 states. Since the concern is selective, since the concern is to single out West Bengal, the motive is not genuine. Therefore, the intention cannot be but malicious. I would submit that the Motion has been tabled to malign the Government of West Bengal. What is the allegation? I do not want to go into it. I would submit that it is the political madness of the politicians in

wilderness that seeks to misuse the national forum. That is what is taking place in West Bengal. What is the allegation? The allegation is only that 3.8 per cent of the total funds made available for the JRY had been diverted. What is the total fund diverted? Rs. 13 crores from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. What is the total fund diverted in the case of the Employment Generation Scheme? Rs. 4 crores. Taken together, it is Rs. 17 crores over a period of five years; Rs.17 crores have been a diverted over a period of five years. Therefore, Sir, my question is, how can a total of Rs. 4500 crores be piled up? How has the hon. mover piled up the fictitious, concocted, absolutely subjective, figure of Rs. 4500 crores? I submit that the figure is the creation of a perverse mind whose only intention is to make a political campaign against a particular State Government of the country. Let me put the things straight. Sir, 85 per cent of West Bengal Government's transactions are done through Treasury transactions; only eight per cent are through the Local Funds Account; only four per cent through the Deposit Account; and three per cent through the Personal Ledger Account. Only three per cent.

Some Members are speaking about legitimacy. The audit of the Gram Panchayats is done by the State Government of West Bengal at its own expense, by the auditors. The audit of the Zila Parishads and other accounts is done be the CAG. Why did the diversion of funds take place? What were the reasons? What was the cause for which the diversion had taken place? The diverted funds were utilised for the public projects. What were the public projects? The money was earmarked for road construction. But a small amount of money earmarked for road construction, was utilised to purchase a road roller, and that was the diversion. The diversion is attributed to the fact that while the money is allocated for road construction, no road roller can be purchased and if a road roller is purchased, it amounts to diversion of funds and is illegitimate. The C.B.I. should enqurie into the whole thing. There should be a C.B.I. enquiry to find out as to why the money that was supposed to have been spent for road construction, was utilised for the purchase of a road roller. There is another example. What was the nature of diversion of funds that took place which prompted out hon. Members to table the Calling Attention Notice? I will give another example of diversion of funds. My hon. friend has not gone into the case of diversion. He knows the tactics of covering up the real intention and place before the House facts that are unsubstantiated. The other diversion which took place was that some money was spent in a water scarce area of West Bengal for sinking tubewells to get drinking water and water for irrigation. In the case of another diversion, funds were spent for a million wells scheme, a sub-scheme under the JRY, to create water sources for drinking water in an area where the water scarcity is well known. the CAG has mentioned that this was a diversion. Let me tell you, Sir, that this is not a report of the CAG. This is a preliminary inspection report of the AG, maybe, DAG. I would honestly request the hon. friend to place the report on the Table of the House. It is not a CAG report.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Read the front page. I said: "The report of the Accountant General."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Gupta, you have already taken fifteen minutes. Be brief.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: sir, I would like to seek your indulgence. Therefor, the question is about opening of the PL account. Why was it not balanced? Sir, the unbalanced political leader are referring to the unbalancing of accounts. The unbalanced mind did not understand why it had to be kept unbalanced. Why were the accounts kept unbalanced? It was because the money

could not be spent in time. It takes its natural time and since the Government of West Bengal had the option of sending back the money to create a situation where the developmental works shall starve. Are we for starving the developmental work? In the rural areas of Bengal, I am here to say that no tubewell could have been started for want of funds, no developmental work could have been undertaken since the money reached very late. In order to satisfy our auditors, we must send back the money to balance our accounts. Do you want us to tell the people how great is the accounting system of our country? Therefore, the question is that the accounts could not be balanced because the money that was kept, could not be spent and due to this fact, the accounts could not be balanced. All the money that was spent was for the peoples' project, was for the development work in that particular area. Who were the people who had been authorised to open this account? The money was meant for the family welfare schemes. I would like to give an example of the people who had been authorised to open the PL account.

The District Family Welfare Bureau was allowed to open a PL Account. The State Family Welfare Bureau was allowed to open a PL Account. What for? To carry out the sterilisation programme. This was done to carry out the sterilisation programme. The people who respond to the sterilisation programme should be given money. The people who organise the sterilisation programme should be given money. The list was prepared after the sterilisation programme and the list was sent to the CAG for his information. This is the nature of the job that was done with the unbalanced money. Therefor, the point is very simple. The point is that we could send back the money. We could revalidate the scheme. That would have taken three or four months' time. That would create read difficulties for our development work. We did not do it. We did not do it because the cause of the people was much important to us.

Sir, I think there are broader issues involved. It is not the issue that my hon. friend has raised. But certain broader issues are involved. What are the broader issues? One of the broader issues is the Centre-State relationship. It is not a repetition of the same slogan Centre-State relationship. Should the management of Federal Fund be done in a way that it creates obstacle in the path of development work of the State? Why should the Centre send the money so late? Why? Why should they send this much money so late? Why? Why should the money be spent in a way that creates real difficulties? That is the main crux of the problem. Another crux of the problem is the failure of the Central Government to send the funds in time. The most important point is the mismanagement of the Federal finance. It is the mismanagement of the Federal finance that is responsible for the problem that has cropped up in many States of the country. There is absolute mismanagement and the mismanagement of the Federal Fund arises out of unbalanced Budget of the country. The widening Budget deficit is one of the basic reasons for the failure of the Central Government to send the money to the States in time for development work.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Please conclude. You have taken twenty minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am concluding, Sir. therefore, the issue has been blown out of proportion. I agree that there has been non-concurrence. I agree that there has been diversion. But I do not agree that there is any illegitimacy. Therefore, the issue has been blown out of proportion. Why was it done? What is the timing? This is being done to boost the sagging morale of the workers of a political party in West Bengal. This is done at a time when the

political leadership of a party of the State is being attacked by the rival section saying that they are making compromises. In order to hold Miss Banerjee at bay our friends on the other side has taken recourse to this unusual practice of singling out West Bengal and launching their attack on it. But I can tell you, Sir, this is not going to succeed. No canard is going to succeed. We are ready for any investigation that the courts in West Bengal or in India shall order and we are ready to co-operate with everybody to bring out the truth. The truth prevails and, therefore, the canard shall not prevail.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस विषय को केवल अकेले में नहीं देखिए। पश्चिम बंगाल के शासकों का यह रिकार्ड रहा है कि कहते कुछ हैं और करते कुछ हैं। पारदर्शिता की बड़ी दुंदभी बजायी जाती है, ढिंढोरा पीटा जाता है। पारदर्शिता का रूप क्या है, वह मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं। महोदय, त्रिपुरा के पूर्व मुख्य मंत्री जो सी०पी०एम० के पोलिट ब्यूरो के सदस्य भी रहे हैं, उन्होंने यह आरोप लगाया कि पश्चिम बंगाल और त्रिपुरा की सरकारें देश की भ्रष्टतम सरकारों में से हैं। महोदय, इसी पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार के एक पूर्व मंत्री जो अपनी ईमानदारी के लिए सभी के द्वारा सम्माननीय माने जाते हैं, उन्होंने तो पीड़ा के साथ कहा कि पश्चिम बंगाल की यह सरकार ठेकेदारों के द्वारा, ठेकेदारों के लिए और ठेकेदारों की बनी हुई है।

आपको यह बताने में मुझे पीड़ा होती है कि इन दोनों अभियोगों की कोई जांच नहीं हुई है। इसका परिणाम क्या निकला? पूर्व मुख्य मंत्री को बहिष्कृत कर दिया गया, पूर्व मंत्री को मंत्रिमण्डल से हटा दिया गया। पश्चिम बंगाल की सरकार पर आरोप लगाने वाले कौन हैं, किन्होंने ये आरोप लगाये हैं? भारतीय जनता पार्टी के किसी कार्यकर्ता ने भारतीय जनता पार्टी के किसी नेता ने ये आरोप नहीं लगाये हैं, उन्हीं के सबसे बड़े नेताओं में से एक ने जो पोलित ब्यूरो के सदस्य रहे हैं, जो त्रिपुरा के मुख्य मंत्री रहे हैं उन्होंने आरोप लगाये और उन आरोपों की जांच नहीं हुई, उनको निकाल दिया गया। पारदर्शिता का यह उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण पश्चिमी बंगाल हमारे सामने पेश करता है। ये कहते हैं कि क्यों इनके ऊपर यह लांछन लगाया गया है। लांछन लगाया गया क्योंकि एक के बाद एक घोटाले पश्चिमी बंगाल में होते रहे है और उन्हें दबाया जाता रहा है सभी लोग जानते हैं कि किस प्रकार वक्फ घोटाला हुआ। सभी लोग जानते हैं कि किस प्रकार अलीपुर ट्रेजरी का घोटाला हुआ, सभी लोग जानते हैं कि किस प्रकार और बहुत से घोटालों से पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार जर्जर हो चुकी है। वहां के मंत्री पुत्रों के संबंध में जो किस्से चलते हैं जो कहानियां हैं वे किसी की भी आंख खोल सकते हैं। यह स्थिति है इस पृष्ठभूमि में। जब यह आरोप आया... (**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I am on a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): What is your point of order?

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: He is making allegations against the West Bengal Government. There is nobody to defend the West Bengal Government. The Calling Attention is specifically about diversion of funds.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I don't think there is any point of order. As far as possible the Member should stick to the subject. But he can refer to other matters also.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: जैसी पृष्ठभूमि बताई जाती रही है, वैसी पृष्ठभूमि मैं भी बता रहा हूं कि पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार की करनी क्या रही है और कथनी के साथ करनी का अन्तर कितना है। बिना इस बात को समझे हम इस आरोप को ठीक-ठीक नहीं समझ सकते हैं यह आरोप क्यों लगा? यह आरोप इसलिए लगा कि ऑडिटर जनरल की एक रिपोर्ट आई जिस रिपोर्ट में बार-बार यह कहा गया कि यह जो पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार है यह अद्भुत सरकार है। इसने केवल 12 ट्रेजरियों में 211 से ज्यादा पीएल एकाउन्ट खोले हैं। और उन पीएल एकाउन्ट में 90 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा रुपया जमा है। बताया जाता है कि शायद 666 पीएल एकाउन्ट हैं।

महोदय, मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि पीएल एकाउन्ट कैसे खोले जाते है, क्यों खोले जाते हैं, कब खोले जाते हैं। पीएल एकाउन्ट किसी विशेष उद्देश्य के लिए खोले जा सकते हैं। पीएल एकाउन्ट ए०जी० की सहमति से या अनुमति से ही खोले जा सकते हैं। उनको बताना पड़ता है कि किसलिए पीएल एकाउन्ट खोले गए बिना ए०जी०

की अनुमति लिए, सहमति लिए यह सरकार बार-बार पीएल एकाउन्ट खोलती रही है। पीएल एकाउन्ट एक साल के बाद बन्द कर दिए जाने चाहिए, लेकिन ये पीएल एकाउन्ट बन्द नहीं किए जाते हैं। वहां पर 1990 से खोले हुए पीएल एकाउन्ट अभी तक चल रहे हैं। मैं यह भी बताना चहता हूं कि डी०ए०जी० ने पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार को एक पत्र 18 जून 1997 को लिखा और उसमें उन्होंने बताया,

> "All the PL Accounts more than one year old be immediately closed."

साफ है कि बहुत से एकाउन्ट एक साल से पुराने थे।

फिर बताया "Those more than one year old may be reviewed and closed on the basis of merit.

> Further opening of PL Accounts should be more purposive, need-oriented and context/scheme specific and with 'Prior consultation' of AG and not 'in anticipation' with his approval."

यह पेपर स्वयं पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार ने अपने मुकदमें में उद्धृत किया है। यह प्रमाणित करता है कि उन्होंने बहुत से एकाउन्ट बिना उनकी अनुमति के यह सोचकर के कि उनको अनुमति मिल जाएगी, सहमति मिल जाएगी, खोले। यह प्रमाणित करता है कि बहुत से एकाउन्ट एक साल से अधिक समय के थे और कई साल तक चले। यह प्रमाणित करता है कि एकाउन्ट बिना किसी प्रामाणिक उद्देश्य के खोले गए। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि पीएल एकाउन्ट में और कंसोलिडेटिड एकाउन्ट में क्या अन्तर है? उस एकाउन्ट में सरकार का सारा रुपया रखा जाता है।

और सारा का सारा रुपया विनियोग विधेयक के अनुसार जिस काम के लिए निर्दिष्ट किया जाता है वह उसी काम के लिए खर्च किया जाना चाहिए। राज्य सरकार केन्द्र सरकार से जिस काम के लिए रुपया लेती है वह रुपया उसी काम में खर्च हो सकता है और यदि उस में से रुपया उठाया जाता है तो उनको बताना पड़ता है कि वह रुपया निर्दिष्ट काम में खर्च हुआ या नहीं हुआ। पी०एल० एकाउन्ट में एक बार रुपया चला गया तो उसकी पहचान लुप्त हो जाती है। पी०एल० एकाउन्ट में रुपया चला जाता है तो मालूम नहीं किस विधेयक में किस के लिए कितना रुपया खर्च करने के लिए अनुमति दी थी। वह सारे का सारा रुपया पी०एल० एकाउन्ट में जमा हो जाता है। वह राज्य सरकार का हो सकता है, वह केन्द्र सरकार से प्राप्त रुपया हो सकता है लेकिन उस रुपये को वापस उठाते समय कोई बाध्यता नहीं रहती कि वह रुपया किस काम में खर्च किया जाये। जिस काम के लिए रुपया दिया गया है उस काम के लिए रुपया खर्च न हो तो यह अपराध है। जिस काम के लिए रुपया दिया है उस वर्ष रुपया उसी काम पर खर्च न हो यह अपराध है। मेरे मित्र श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त ने कहा क्योंकि 15 मार्च के बाद रुपया आया इसलिए हमने बाध्य होकर उस रुपये को डायवर्स कर दिया। मालूम नहीं क्या मतलब है? मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं, वे बतायें कि कितना रुपया 15 मार्च के बाद आया है? माननीय केन्द्रीय मंत्री जी यहां बैठे है, उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य में बताया कि दो बार रुपया दिया जाता है — एक बार एडहॉक बेसिस पर और दूसरी बार तब रुपया दिया जाता है जब बहुत सी आवश्यकताएं पूर्ण होती हैं। आप इसके बाद देखिये जबकि यूटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट मिलता है तब बताया जाता है कि किसी गलत काम में रुपया खर्च नहीं हुआ। क्यों नहीं पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार ने ठीक समय पर अपना हिसाब भेजा? मैं बताता हूं कि There is a method in this madness. जानबूझकर देर से हिसाब भेजना, जानबूझ कर केन्द्र सरकार को बेबस करना, कि रुपया देर से ही भेजा जा सके, मैं इस पर आपत्ति करता हूं कि पूरा का पूरा रुपया 15 मार्च के बाद आया। मैं जानना चाहूंगा, केन्द्रीय मंत्री जी बतायें कि कितना रुपया 15 मार्च से पहले और कितना रुपया 15 मार्च के बाद आया, बताइये। यह देरी का बहाना बनाकर सारे का सारा रुपया जिस काम के लिए खर्च होना चाहिये उस काम के लिए खर्च न करके अपनी व्यक्तिगत इच्छाओं के अनुसार जिस काम पर चाहे उस काम पर खर्च करने का अधिकार प्राप्त करना ये संविधान के साथ धोखाधड़ी करना है। ये केन्द्र सरकार के साथ धोखाधड़ी करना है। यह पश्चिमी बंगाल की विधान सभा के साथ धोखाधड़ी करना है, यह पश्चिमी बंगाल की जनता के साथ धोखाधड़ी करना है। पूछा जाता है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार ने क्या अपराध किया है? यह अगर अपराध नहीं है तो मुझे बताया जाये कि अपराध किसको कहते हैं?. रुपया जिस काम के लिए खर्च किया जाना है उसे एक साल में उसी पर खर्च होना चाहिये। यह पूछा जाता है कि क्या रुपया हम लौटा देते? नहीं, एक विधान है कि अगर बहुत देर से रुपया आया है, रिजर्व बैंक में रुपया है तो उस रुपये का आप पुनः उपयोग कर सकते हैं उसका सहारा नहीं लिया गया। बहाना बनाकर रुपया दूसरे हिसाब में भेज दिया जाये, उस रुपये का गलत उपयोग किया जाये तो उस गलत काम की जांच का कोई आधार नहीं हो सकता कि किस काम में रुपया

खर्च हुआ। क्योंकि उसके लिए आवश्यक कागज पत्र ही नहीं रखे गए हैं। दस साल तक पीएल एकाउन्ट की जांच नहीं हुई, आडिट नहीं हुए और यह सरकार चल रही है। यह किसी एकाउन्ट का रुपया किसी के भी हिसाब में खर्च कर सकती है। पश्चिम बंगाल के माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हम तीन महीने में उसकी जांच करा लेंगे जिस काम को आप दस वर्ष में नहीं कर सके उस काम को आप तीन महीने में कैसे कर लेंगे? यह पूरा का पूरा धोखाधड़ी का काम है और धोखाधड़ी का काम पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार की विशेषता है। वह सब काम को बहुत ही वैज्ञानिक ढंग से करती है। वैज्ञानिक पद्धति से, जैसे वे रीगिंग करते हैं वैसी ही वैज्ञानिक पद्धति से वे इसको कहते हैं कि नही-नहीं ये मिस-एप्रोप्रिएशन नहीं है। क्या है भैया, डायवर्सिफिकेशन एक नया शब्द उगल दो और अपनी सारी गलतियों पर पर्दा डाल दो। यह वैज्ञानिकता चलने वाली नहीं है। यह खोखली वैज्ञानिकता है, झूठी वैज्ञानिकता है। यह पकड़ी गई है इसलिए जनता के सामने वे खड़े हुए हैं। मैं आपसे यह बताना चाहता हूं कि कई बार 2,500 करोड़ रुपये की बात कही जाती है। कहां से यह 2,500 करोड़ रुपया आता है? क्योंकि 90 से 95 तक केन्द्रीय सरकार ने जो रुपये चाहे वह जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत, चाहे इंदिरा आवास योजना के अंतर्गत और चाहे कुछ और योजनाओं के अंतर्गत दिये उनका जोड़ होता है 2,500 करोड़ रुपये। वे रुपये वास्तव में कितनी मात्रा में खर्च हुए? कितनी मात्रा में तथा कथित डायवर्सिफिकेशन के द्वारा दूसरे हिसाबों में, दूसरे कामों में खर्च किया गया? इसके बारे में लोगों के मन में शंका है इसलिए यह आरोप लगता है। मुझे मालूम नहीं, निर्णय करने की स्थिति में नहीं हूं। लेकिन मैं इस स्थिति में हूं कि यह मांग करूं कि एक बहुत गलत काम हुआ है और उस गलत काम का विधिवत परीक्षण होना चाहिये। विधिवत परीक्षण का क्या रास्ता हो सकता है? हम लोग यह जानते हैं कि वहां एक मुकदमा चल रहा है। मैं यह भी मानता हूं कि वह मुकदमा जिस तरह से चलना चाहिये वैसा चलता रहेगा लेकिन उसमें पहली मांग यह नहीं थी कि सीबीआई से जांच कराई जाये। माननीय श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी ने कहा कि मुकदमा चलाने वालों ने सीबीआई की जांच करने की मांग की थी जोकि अस्वीकृत कर दी गयी। यह तथ्य नहीं है। उसमें मांग यह की गई थी कि कंपट्रोलर एंड आडिटर जनरल से जांच कराई जाए और उस जांच रिपोर्ट को कोर्ट के सामने पेश किया जाए। माननीय कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट ने यह निर्णय कि यह प्रविधि है कि कंपट्रोलर एंड आडिटर जनरल की जो रिपोर्ट आएगी, वह पहले गवर्नर के पास जाएगी। उसके बाद सरकार के पास जाएगी। सरकार उसको विधान सभा में पेश करेगी और विधान सभा उसको पी०ए०सी० में भेजेगी। उसको कोर्ट में भेजने का आदेश हाई कोर्ट नहीं दे सकता क्योंकि यह संविधान विरोधी होगा। इसलिए इतना मात्र अंश कटा है। बहुत से लोगों को खुशी हुई कि कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय ने उनकी बात मान ली, उनकी जीत हो गई, क्या जीत हो गई? जिस बात की कंपट्रोलर एंड आडिटर जनरल को जांच करने का अधिकार है, अब भी वह जांच कर सकता है। सिर्फ यह बताया गया कि जांच प्रतिवेदन हाई कोर्ट में पेश नहीं किया जा सकता। जांच का प्रतिवेदन जहां जाना चाहिये, वहां जाएगा। पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार की विधान सभा की पी०ए०सी० उस पर विचार करने वाली है। यह एक बहुत बड़ा षडयंत्र है, सैकड़ों करोड़ों रुपयों का अर्थात् 666 पी०एल० अकाउंट्स है। उसका कोई विधि विधान नहीं होता। पीएलए किस की आज्ञा से खोला गया, कौन खोल सकता है। 666 अकाऊंट खोले गये हैं, क्या इसकी जांच नहीं होनी चाहिये? किस की आज्ञा से डाइवर्सीफिकेशन किया गया, क्या इसकी जांच नहीं होनी चाहिये? पैसा 15 मार्च के पहले तक भेजा गया, या देर से भेजा गया, क्या इसकी जांच नहीं होनी चाहिये? वहां के ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री कहते हैं कि पानी बरस रहा था, वर्षा में मकान नहीं बनाए जा सकते इसलिए इन्दिरा आवास योजना का रुपया हमने दूसरे कामों में खर्च कर दिया। तुम कौन होते हो खर्च करने वाले? किस की आज्ञा से खर्च कर सकते हो। एक निर्णीत निधि है, जिस काम के लिए दी गई है, उस काम के लिए खर्च न कर के केन्द्र से आए हुए रुपये को मनमाने कामों पर खर्च करने का अधिकार आपको कहां से प्राप्त होता है, कौन जानता है किस काम में खर्च हुआ है। असली सवाल यह है कि किस काम के लिए खर्च हुआ है, इससे जनता का स्वार्थ सधा है या पार्टी के सदस्यों का स्वार्थ सधा है या कार्यकर्ताओं का स्वार्थ सधा है या ठेकेदारों की सरकार है, ठेकेदारों का स्वार्थ सधा है, मुझे नहीं मालूम। इस बात की जांच होनी चाहिये। इस बात की जांच होनी चाहिये कि यह पी०एल० अकाऊंट का पैसा वहां के किस हिसाब में खर्च किया गया? कहा जाता है कि आडिटर जनरल ने कहा है कि इसका मैं ट्रेक कैसे रखूं। जिस अकाऊंट का रुपया था उसको आपने पी०एल० अकाऊंट में डाल दिया और पी०एल० अकाऊंट में जाने के बाद उस रुपये की पहचान लुप्त हो गई और उसको आपने यथासंभव अपनी इच्छानुसार खर्च किया। किन कामों में खर्च किया गया, उसका हिसाब नहीं रखा गया। एक दो नहीं, दस पंद्रह, बीस पच्चीस उदाहरण दिए है, इसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। (समय

की घंटी) हिसाब नहीं का क्रंदन स्वर है आडिटर जनरल के आवेदन में आता है। रुपया खर्च हो गया, सारे का सारा रुपया डाइवर्सीफिकेशन हो कर जनता के स्वार्थ के लिए खर्च हुआ है। आप मान लेंगे इस बात को, जनता नहीं मानेगी। जनता इस बात को जानना चाहती है, दूध का दूध, पानी का पानी हो जाए। जिन लोगों ने इसके अन्दर बेईमानी कर के रुपया खर्च किया है, उनकी जांच होनी चाहिये, उनको दंड मिलना चाहिये। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आखिर बिहार में कैसे हुआ। यह जो हजारों करोड़ रुपयों का घोटाला हुआ, यह पहले तो ऐसे नहीं निकला था। कैग की जांच से ही उजागर हुआ। वैसा ही मामला यहां भी है। बंगला में एक कहावत है— केंचो खुँते साँय बेरोलो।
केंचुए के लिए खोदा गया लेकिन निकला सांप। अभी दोनों कहते हैं कि डाइवर्सीफिकेशन है। केंचुआ बताया है, वह केंचुआ है या सांप है, कौन जानेगा? इस बात की जांच होनी चाहिये कि केंचुए के पीछे कहीं सांप तो नहीं छिपा है। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: (उत्तर प्रदेश) हिन्दी में एक दूसरी कहावत है, खोदा पहाड़ निकली चुहिया।

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: लेकिन बंगाल में वही लागू होती है। बंगाल की स्थिति में लागू होती है कि केंचुआ देख कर खोदा गया लेकिन सांप निकल आया। बिहार में भी सांप निकला था। इसलिए माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह मांग करता हूं कि इसकी जांच होनी चाहिये और ऐसी जांच होनी चाहिये जिससे सब को विश्वास हो कि सही सही जांच हई है। मैं बहुत से उदाहरण दे सकता हूं। मेरे पास इतने कागज़ पत्र पड़े हुए हैं लेकिन आपने घंटी बजा दी इसलिए मैं आपका सम्मान करते हुए अपनी बात को समाप्ति की ओर ले जाना चाहता हूं और यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसकी जांच होनी चाहिये। उन्होंने कहा कि कोई भी जांच कर सकता है। यदि कोई भी जांच कर सकता है तो सी०बी०आई० से जांच करवाने में आपको क्या आपत्ति है। सी०बी०आई० के द्वारा जांच होनी चाहिये और उस सी०बी०आई० की जांच से यह प्रमाणित होना चाहिये कि आखिर वह पी०एल० अकाउंट का रुपया किन किन हिसाबों में खर्च किया गया और पी०एल० अकाउंट संविधान के विरूद्ध बिना उसकी सहमति के खोला गया। और कहां से खोले गए जिला परिषद तक, पंचायत तक, अद्भुत बात है सब जगह एक पी०एल० एकाउंट, एब जगह एक सरकारी एकाउंट। ट्रेजरी से हटा करके रुपया अलग रख दो और अपनी इच्छा के अनुसार उसको खर्च करते रहो। यह तो बात है कि अंधा बांटे रेवड़ियां, फिर-फिर अपने को दे। यह जो अंधे की रेवड़ी की बात है यह तो हिन्दी की कहावत हुई, यह तो कहावत नहीं चरितार्थ होनी चाहिए। आंख वाले लोग कैसे काम करते हैं, यह काम आना चाहिए।... (व्यवधान)

श्री एस०एस० अहलूवालिया: (बिहार) मुड़-मुड़ अपने को। ...(व्यवधान)

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: चलिए मुड़-मुड़ है, फिर-फिर हो तो भी एक ही बात है। मैं बहुत ही दृढ़ता के साथ यह मांग करता हूं कि सारे पश्चिमी बंगाल की जनता में इस समय इस पी०एल० एकाउंट को ले कर पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार की विश्वसनीयता के ऊपर गंभीर प्रश्न चिन्ह लग गया है। चारों तरफ लोग यह मांग कर रहे हैं कि इसकी सही जांच होनी चाहिए और सही जांच के द्वारा प्रमाणित होना चाहिए कि रुपया कहा गया है, किस काम में खर्च हुआ है। माननीय त्रिपुरा के मुख्य मंत्री की बात नहीं मानी गई। पश्चिम बंगाल के माननीय पूर्व मंत्री की बात नहीं मानी गई, अब संसद की बात तो मानी जाए। संसद के द्वारा तो पारदर्शिता को स्थापित करने के लिए एक निष्पक्ष जांच हो। जो कि तलस्पर्शी जांच हो, केवल सतही नहीं। नीचे तक जाए और कौन दोषी है, कौन निरपराध है इसको प्रमाणित करे।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं बहुत ही आग्रह के साथ यह मांग करता हूं कि सी०बी०आई० के द्वारा इसकी जांच होनी चाहिए ताकि जनता को विश्वास हो सके कि सही जांच हुई है और निर्णय उसको स्वीकार हो। धन्यवाद।

श्री एस०एस० अहलूवालिया: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपनी स्टेटमेंट में कोशिश की कि किस तरह से फिगर जगलरी में सांसदों को फंसाया जा सके। हमारे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने बंगाल में पर्सनल लेजर एकाउंट के बारे में बहुत सारे मुद्दे उठाए। महोदय, पश्चिमी बंगाल में करीब 72 गवर्नमेंट ट्रेज़रीज़ हैं और उनमें 666 पी०एल० एकाउंट्स चल रहे हैं। जैसा कि मेरे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने कहा कि ट्रेज़री रूल्ज़ के सब रुल 410-बी एंड 410 एंड 411 के तहत पर्सनल लेजर एकाउंट खोले जा सकते हैं, पर वे किसी स्पेशल कंडीशंस पर और प्रयार परमिशन लेकर। पर यहां इन एकाउंट्स खोलने के लिए कोई परमिशन किसी से नहीं ली गई है और यह पैसा दूसरे एकाउंट्स में डाइवर्ट किया गया है। महोदय, बांकुड़ा एक जिला है जो बैकवर्ड जिला है, 14 पी०एल० एकाउंट है। सिलीगुड़ी 18 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, बैरकपुर, कलकत्ता के अंदर में

है और 29 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं बर्दवान 34 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, दुर्गापुर एक सब डिवीजन है वहां 16 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, बारासात कलकत्ते के साथ लगता है वहां 7 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, खातड़ा में 16 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, बोलपुर में 11 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, चंदर नगर में 14 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, केशव नगर में 26 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं, कूच बिहार में 24 पी०एल० एकाउंट हैं। ऐसे यह संख्या बढ़ती गई है, महोदय, मैं तो उदाहरण के लिए छोटे नंबर्ज़ बता रहा हूं। जैसा कि हमारे संविधान के तहत एक कंसालिडेटेड फंड और एक कंटेनजेंसी फंड और एक पब्लिक एकाउंट होता है....।

कुछ फंडस की जो चीजें हैं, वह हमें संसद के सामने या विधानसभा के सामने लाकर बजट के माध्यम से पास करानी पड़ती हैं और कुछ ऐसी भी हैं जो पास कराने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती हैं पी०एल० एकाउण्ट का हिसाब हमें देने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती है।

महोदय, यह सवाल कब उठा? यह जो अभी हवा नहीं लग रही है, एक बार तो सी०ए०जी० ने सवाल उठाया था बोफोर्स पर, एक बार सवाल उठाया था 950 करोड़ के फोडर स्कैम पर और आज सवाल उठा है उसी सी०ए०जी० के माध्यम से 2500 करोड़ का। आज तो यह धुंआ सा नजर आ रहा है, धुंध नजर आ रही है, लेकिन जब यह धुंध साफ होगी तब सारी की सारी चीजें सामने आएंगी।

महोदय, अभी कुछ देर पहले हमारे पूर्व वक्ता गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी कह रहे थे कि यह डायवर्सन हो सकता है पर इसका दुरुपयोग नहीं किया गया है। उन्होंने वी०पी०सिंह जी का पुराना स्लोगन शुरू किया कि इतना पैसा डायवर्ट कर लिया। इससे इतने नलकूप बन सकते थे, इतने स्कूल बन सकते थे, इतने रोड़ रोलर खरीदे जा सकते थे। यह सेंटीमेंटल बातें हैं, वास्तविकता कुछ और है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यह पार्टी ने नहीं किया। यह तो सर्वविदित है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल में 50 परसेंट से भी ज्यादा पंचायतों में कोई आदमी नोमीनेशन नहीं भर सकता, अनकांटेस्टेड लोग होते हैं। वह अनाकांटेस्टेड कैसे होते हैं? ऐसे कि जो नोमीनेशन भरने जाता है और जो उसका परपोजर बनता है उसके घर और द्वार, सब जला दिए जाते हैं। ऐसा नहीं कि जनता उनके साथ है। ....(**व्यवधान**)... अरे भाई, मैं तो दामाद हूं। .....(**व्यवधान**)...

एक माननीय सदस्य: यही तो मुश्किल है।

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया: और, ऐसे जिले से हूं, जहां यह घटनाएं घटती रही हैं।

श्री सोमपाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): अहलुवालिया जी, वह असेम्बली इलेक्शन का चिट्ठा पूछ रहे हैं, वह भी बता दीजिए, उसमें कैसे करते हैं यह लोग? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया: असेम्बली इलेक्शन में तो आप उतना हंगामा नहीं कर सके। असेम्बली इलेक्शन तो शहरों में होते हैं। जो गांव में, पंचायतों में जब आदमी नोमीनेशन भरने जाता है, वह आप पूछिएगा और अगर कहिएगा तो सारा रिकार्ड लाकर सामने रख दूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 18 जून को डिप्टी एकाउण्टेण्ट जनरल ने एक चिट्ठी लिखी है। ...(व्यवधान)... जी हां, करसपोंडेंस डी०ए०जी० ही करता है। यह लेटर रफरेन्स नंबर है—ओए/आईआर/पीएलए/जी/97-98/17, तारीख 18 जून, 1997 और इसके पहले मार्च के महीने में भी लिखी है। इन चिट्ठियों के मुताबिक सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि डा० असीम दासगुप्त जी ने जो अपने भाषण में कहा था बजट पेश करते हुए और बजट पर बहस करते हुए, उस पर एक प्रश्न चिह्न लगता है। उन्होंने सवाल करते हुए कहा है कि—

"...The actual and the revised estimates shown in the Budget would not be trustworthy..."

यह बहुत बड़ा प्रश्न चिह्न है। महोदय, यह आज शुरूआत हुई है। अपने नारों से, अपने बंद से, अपने जुलूसों से इस आवाज को क्या आप दबा देंगे? महोदय, जो भी आवाज बंगाल में इस पर उठाएगा, आप उसको दबाने की कोशिश करेंगे, किन्तु यह आवाज दबने वाली नहीं है।

2.00 P.M.

क्योंकि इसमें एक्सपोज़ होने वाले हैं आप। महोदय, सी०ए०जी० की जो लेटेस्ट रिपोर्ट है, उसमें हाइलाइट्स में लिखते हैं:—

"Of the 160 gram panchayats and 28 constituencies in four districts test checks, details of persons seeking employment..."

मैं एम्प्लॉयमेंट ऐश्योरेंस स्कीम के बारे में बोल रहा हूं।

"...and their family cards were not made available in respect of 113 gram panchayats and two constituencies. In the absence of which the number of persons registered as reported by the State

Government to the Government of India could not be verified."

हमारे पूर्ववक्ता श्री गुरूदास दासगुप्त जी कह रहे थे कि यह पैसा पार्टी में नहीं गया। यह पार्टी में नहीं गया तो कहां गया? सारी की सारी पंचायत समितियां कौन चलाता है? भाजपा के लोग चलाते हैं, शिव सेना के लोग चलाते हैं, जनता दल के लोग चलाते हैं, यह कौन चला रहा है?

"Two Zila parishads, Bakura in North 24 Parganas, Siliguri, M. H. Kuma Parishad, Darjeeling-Gorkha Hill Council, diverted Employment Assurance Scheme funds for other purposes in 1993 to 1996." It is not my report, Sir.

यह सी०ए०जी० कह रहा है और सिर्फ इतना ही नहीं, शैडयूल्ड कास्ट और शैडयूल्ड ट्राइब्स के लिए जो फंड गया, उस बारे में कहते हैं:—

"Though Rs. 32.93 crores had remained unutilised, the State Government furnished utilisation certificate for the entire fund of Rs. 129.06 crores credited to their account during 1991—96."

यह कैसे संभव है? अगर 32.93 करोड़ के यूटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट नहीं थे, उसके बावजूद आपने यूटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट दे दिया तो मैं और, जो रेस्ट आप दि एमाउंट है, उसका हिसाब किससे मांगू?

"The reports and returns were not regularly obtained from the FOs concerned, analysed and corrective measures taken for the removal of constraints in the implementation of the scheme. As a result, the progress of implementation of the Scheme by the individual beneficiary and community Scheme as well as their impact on socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries *vis-a-vis* crossing of poverty line by them was never assessed."

कहे जा रहे हैं कि बिलो दि पावर्टी लाइन ये पापुलेशन है, पर कोई असैसमेंट कभी हुआ ही नहीं।

"Inspection by State-level officers was not on record. The Department could not produce any consolidated position of implementation of different schemes."

महोदय, अब आज यह मंत्री महोदय किस बेसिस पर कह रहे हैं कि यह करोड़ों रुपए में नहीं, हजारों करोड़ों में नहीं, यह लाखों करोड़ों में है? एक बहाना लगा लिया कि यह सब ज्यूडिस है मैटर, तो इसको तो पढ़ लीजिए, आप सी०ए०जी० की रिपोर्ट उठाकर देख लीजिए, यह गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की रिपोर्ट है।

"The test check of accounts of Zila Parishads in October, 1994 and July, 1996 revealed as under:—"

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Is it CAG report?

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yes, it is CAG report.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Bengal): I am sorry, Sir... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am sorry, Sir Dr. Mitra, I know that you are a learned person. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Would you kindly submit the report to the Chair after its authentication?

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yes, I will.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I am challenging you that it is not CAG report. Let it be submitted to the Chair.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I will place the report because I have taken this report from Parliament Library. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Mitra, let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is a point of order, Sir.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: He is maligning the CAG. The CAG will disown all that he has stated here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am quoting whatever I have.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Dr. Mitra, please sit down. *(Interruptions)* Your Member is there, he would clarify it later.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: He is imposing something which does not belong to CAG. *(Interruptions)* He is referring from a stolen document.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: If the House permits me, I can bring it from the Library and produce it.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: The CAG will not admit that these are any of his reports.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Do you mean to say that all the reports kept in the Parliament Libarary are fictitious? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: In the High Court, the CAG and his counsel, the State Government and its counsel had supported the point of view of the State Government and it was indicated that all these supposed documents were part of interpolation, questions and answers that went on with the State Government and the Accountant General's officers. This happens every year and even every month with every State Government and finally the accounts are reconciled. *(Interruptions)* Let us have some sense of proportion. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Anyway, Dr. Mitra, he can continue. When your party's turn comes, you can reply at that time.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is not a queston of a report of the CAG. It is a statutory authority and that is why he has invoked the name of CAG. It has certain Constitutional implications. What we are saying is that the CAG has a certain process of auditing accounts which is well established in every State. West Bengal is no exception. The local officer, whoever he is, prepares a preliminary account, or a statement. It goes to the Government. It gives time to the Government. Eventually, whatever it is, it goes in the name of CAG. It is not something which CAG produces. I can challenge it. Let him authenticate it and put it before the Parliament.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yes, I will.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: What I am saying is that if it were not CAG report, why should he bring it out the name of CAG. Because there is a paper there, they will put it up. We do not want it to be judged in a veckless manner, in the casual manner, to invoke the name of CAG.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Ahluwaliaji, please conclude now.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I will, Sir. They have challenged my authenticity. Sir, I have quoted this from the CAG Report No. 37, dated 31st March, 1996, West Bengal. This is number one. *(Interruptions)* Number two, I am quoting from Report No. 4, 31st March 1996, Government of West Bengal.

SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU: Can I speak for a minute?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU: Whatever report it is, it is actually tabled in the State Assembly, and that is the pucca report. Meanwhile the Comptroller and Auditor General writes letters to the State Government. They give some information and it goes on like that. They compare it and finally they place the report in the Legislative Assembly. Central audit reports are placed in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. These are the reports which are final.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I would like to know from the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Is the Member taking part in a debate or is he making some submission? I do not think it requires a debate at this stage. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): The Government wants to clarify, when the

Minister wants to say something, I cannot obstruct him.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will they clarify on a letter also? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): This is a very relevant point and it has been challenged by the hon. Member.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: This is not the time. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I have said so. The speaker should not be disturbed because other Members also will have a chance and at that time they can clarify. When the House was agitated, what can I do? Yes, Mr. Singla, any point? Let him complete otherwise.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the CAG communication to the State Government could also be considered part of the report. He was making some observation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Please sit down. Ahluwaliaji, the hon. Minister will reply in the end.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The hon. Minister said that I am quoting form the communication. No, it is not a communication; It is not a letter. It is a report. It is a photocopy of a report which I have taken from the Parliament Library. It is the same report which you are holding in your hands. I am quoting from the same report. These are not communications. These are not letters. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU: These things are mentioned in the report. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is pucca. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: So this is pucca. Please bear with me. I am quoting from that. You please see the report. Then, Sir, I quote from page 88 of Report No. 4 with regard to the Panchayat Department:

"Test-check of account of the ZP in October 1994 and July 1996 revealed as under:

Of Rs. 107.28 crores, Rs. 42.21 crores were withdrawan by self cheques and kept in the savings bank accounts in seven different banks during the period from 1989-90 to 1995-96 for allotment to Gram Panchayats by the ZP direct. The amount so segregated from the fund of the ZP was shown as expenditure without its acutal utilisation."

Am I correct? Is it written there? It further says," No Cash Book was maintained for the transaction held in the banks since 1989-90 and the amount kept in the books thus remained out of account. In January 1996, Rs. 1.43 crores held in six out of the seven bank accounts were transferred to Personal Ledger Acounts of the ZP. The pass-books in respect of savings banks accounts were not produced to Audit though specifically called for. As such, the extent of deposit to the savings accounts, withdrawal therefrom and interest accrued from time to time were not ascertainable." Is it not correct? This is written in the report. Is it not corret? ...*(Interruptions)*... The State Government's reply is ...*(Interruptions)*... These are the two reports of which I have taken the photocopies. These are authenticated CAG reports which were place before the Government and before the House. I have taken photocopies of these reports. So, you cannot challenge these reports. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, then the Minister says that the matter was referred to the State Government in July 1996 and a reply has not been received. Then, Sir, on the next page it is written, "As against total fund of the Rs. 1702.89 crores (NREP: Rs. 182.88 crores. RLEGP: Rs. 298.27 crores and JRY: Rs. 1221.74 crores) received by the 16 ZPs between April 1983 and October 1995 the amount earmarked for Social Forestry Scheme was Rs. 83.25 crores of which an expenditure aggregating Rs. 73.50 crores had been incurred by the ZPs as of March 1996, while the figure of

expenditure under the scheme as furnished by the Government was Rs. 220.51 crores even up to 1994-95. The wide discrepancy between the figures as per accounts of the ZPs and those according to records of Government was yet to be reconciled by the Government as of September 1996." So, what more information do you want in this case? Where has this money gone? Who has taken away this money? ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, they are saying that their partymen have not taken this money. Then who has taken this money?

Sir, at page 98 of the C & AG Report No. 4, it is stated, "No evaluation of the project was ever made. Government stated (May, 1996) that owing to non-submission of Annual Report by the Z.Ps., the programme of Social Forestry could not be evaluated.

This notwithstanding expenditure of Rs. 36.76 crores for over a decade by the 9 Z.Ps. the impact of Social Forestry on the State's ecology as well as on the socio-economic lives of the rural poor remained unassessed." Whose responsibility is it? Sir, I: Whose responsibility is it? Nobody knows where the money which is allocated for the uplift of the poor people, for employment assurance scheme, for social forestry, for Scheduled Castes and others has gone. The Bengal Government is ruled by Sarvaarhara party and it is this party which is talking about the poor. Sir, there is a programme — food for work. The Z.Ps. did not undertake physical verification of the stock so far and were also not aware whether the foodgrains were fit for human consumption. This is not my remark. This is a remark made by the C & AG. They are also not aware about the quality of foodgrains which are in stock for distribution to poor people who come there and work for the whole day just for a bowl of meal. They are talking about meal. They are talking about cloth and houses. They do not know even whether it is fit for human consumption but they talk about poor people and say that they are champions for the uplift of poor people. Can they eat that food? Who is going to check all these things? These are only two reports — No. 3 and 4 of 31st March, 1996— from which I am quoting. I do not want to quote any other report. I am only interested in knowing where this money has gone. Why have the people of India given power to such people through Article 202 and 206. For audit and such maintenance of records to streamline the entire thing. Where is the money going? You people are worried about imposing Article 356 in Bihar. Why not in West Bengal? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I agree with this. My humble appeal in this House is, let them do it and later on they will understand the repercussions ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, you were not there. You were not here, I said that through mischief, through your slogans and through mikes, you can stop, you can throttle the voice of the people of West Bengal. But, you cannot throttle the voice of this Parliament. We have got the right to discuss this matter...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Unfortunately you do not have a vote in West Bengal...(*Interruptions*)... We cannot import voters from the rest of the country in order to please you ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Mitra, you have given your name. You can speak when your turn comes.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Mr. Mitra, this is for your information. I do not know whether you are in the Politbureau or not ...(*Interruptions*)... You know only economics and that is bad economics ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: At least, I did not learn it from Mr. Ahluwalia ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Ahluwalia, please conclude. There are more speakers from your party.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, through this House, I just would like to inform that Bengal is the only State where the Congress is contesting alone and the other 14 parties are contesting against the Congress and in spite of that we have got 40% votes.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Yes, Do not challenge us.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: The Congress is so strong in Bengal. Do not talk about all these things ...(*Interruptions*)... You just segregate yourself and contest alone and see your fate where you land, whether in the Bay of Bengal or in Andaman and Nicobar.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: You have been trying for the last 20 years and you try for the next 15 years ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, Mr. Jyoti Basu's Government first came into power on 21st June, 1977. I remember that. They have governed for more than 20 years. What have they achieved? This is a scam of more than Rs. 2,500 crores. It needs immediate attention of the House and the Government. Again, the Home Minister will say that they need a request letter from the West Bengal Government, whether they can institute a CBI enquiry or not. I know, the law says that. But, where the Government itself is a party, they are in conspiracy, they are looting public money, what should be done? When you, the Central Government, are sending money for the poor people of West Bengal, why will you not take cognizance of it? Why will you not constitute an Inquiry Committee headed by a CBI officer? You must do that and invoke Article 356 in West Bengal ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Excellent idea! You are welcome ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I know their strength. Out of my 48 years—which is my age today—I have spent 28 years in West Bengal, in the den of CPI(M). Since my student life I have been fighting against the Marxists' tyranny. I know their trend. I know their threats. I know everything. I understand their psyche. They will react. But, they cannot throttle the voice of Parliament. We demand an inquiry into this matter by the CBI, and invoke Article 356 in West Bengal. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Thank you, Ahluwaliaji, Now, I would call Shri Ish Dutt Yadavji.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, कालिंग अटैंशन के जरिए बंगाल में, बंगाल सरकार के द्वारा 4,500 करोड़ रुपये का जो डाइवर्सन किया इस पर हम इस सदन में बहस कर रहे हैं। लगभग 20 वर्षों से बंगाल में लेफ्ट फ्रंट की सरकार है और लगातार इतने वर्षों तक एक सरकार का रहना उस सरकार की ईमानदारी और जन-सेवा का प्रमाण है। अन्यथा उस सरकार की ईमानदारी पर, उस सरकार की कार्य प्रणाली पर जनता को जरा भी सन्देह रहता तो श्री अहलुवालिया जी की पार्टी को और श्री शास्त्री जी की पार्टी को बुरी तरह से पराजित नहीं होना पड़ता। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सुरिन्दर कुमार सिंगला: इनको सारे हिन्दुस्तान में देख लो ...(**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जॉन एफ० फर्नांडिस): सिंगला जी प्लीज।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: सीएजी की जो 1994-95 और 1995-96 की रिपोर्ट है उस रिपोर्ट में पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार की प्रशंसा की गई है, उसके कामों की प्रशंसा की गई है और उसके द्वारा धन के सदुपयोग करने की प्रशंसा की गई है और जो जन-हित में किया है उसकी भी प्रशंसा की गई है। मैं समझता हूं कि वेस्ट बंगाल की सरकार और हम भी इस बात से इन्कार नहीं कर रहे हैं कि फण्ड का डाइवर्सन नहीं हुआ है। फण्ड का डाइवर्सन हुआ होगा, हुआ है, लेकिन इसमें नीयत देखी जाती है।

महोदय, क्रिमनल लॉ में इंटेशन महत्वपूर्ण होता है, इरादा महत्वपूर्ण होता है। क्या डाइवर्सन गलत इरादे से किया गया? क्या डाइवर्सन गबन करने के इरादे से किया गया? क्या वहां के मुख्य मंत्री या मंत्री अथवा

अधिकारियों या जो सरकार में जिम्मेदार लोग बैठे हैं, उन लोगों ने डाइवर्सन इस इरादे से किया कि उस धन का हम दुरुपयोग करेंगे? उस धन का हम गबन करेंगे? इस तरह का कोई साक्ष्य नहीं है। श्री अहलुवालिया जी और जिन सदस्यों ने अपने विचार प्रकट किए हैं, उनके पास भी इस तरह का कोई एविडेंस नहीं है, तथ्य नहीं है। उनके पास कोई साक्ष्य इस तरह का नहीं है कि रुपये का जो डाइवर्सन किया गया, इसके पीछे सरकार का कोई गलत इरादा था। ..अथवा उन जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों का या जो भी व्यक्ति जिम्मेदार थे। डायवर्सन के लिए। हां, डायवर्सन से जरूर इन्टरेस्ट का नुकसान होता है। जो इन्टरेस्ट मिलना होता है वह इन्टरेस्ट नहीं मिलता है। राज्य सरकारों की और अधिकारियों की मजबूरी भी होती है। मार्च के महीने में जो पैसा दिया जाता है इसको कैसे यूटिलाइज कर लिया जायेगा उसी फाइनेन्शियल ईयर में। वित्तीय वर्ष, फाइनेन्शियल ईयर का एंड 31 मार्च होता है और मार्च के महीने में ही जब केन्द्रीय सरकार से प्रदेश सरकार को वह पैसा जाता है तो जो योजनाएं हैं, जो प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं उनको सरकार कैसे पूरा कर पायेगी? उसको पूरा करने में कठिनाई होती है। और केवल बंगाल सरकार की कठिनाई नहीं है, जहां पर कांग्रेस की सरकार है और जहां कांग्रेस की सरकार रही है, जहां भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार रही है या किसी पार्टी की सरकार रही है, हर सरकार के सामने यह कठिनाई आती है कि अगर पैसा वित्तीय वर्ष के अंत में आता है तो उसका सदुपयोग कैसे किया जाये, उसको यूटिलाइज कैसे किया जाये? अभी गुरूदास दास जी कह रहे थे और सही कह रहे थे कि कि 13 राज्यों में फंड का डाइवर्सन हुआ है। केवल अकेले बंगाल में डाइवर्ष नहीं हुआ है और पहली बार डाइवर्सन नहीं हुआ है। जब से सरकारें कायम हैं तब से डाइवर्सन होता है और ये डाइवर्सन इसलिए होता है कि सरकार की मजबूरी होती है। चाहे बंगाल की सरकार रहे, चाहे उत्तर प्रदेश, चाहे मध्य प्रदेश या राजस्थान की सरकार रहे, कोई सरकार रहे, हर सरकार की मजबूरी होती है। वित्तीय वर्ष के अंत में अगर रुपया मिलेगा और बरसात आने वाली है तो सड़क कैसे बनेंगी। अगर अर्थ वर्क होना है, मिट्टी का काम होना है, उसे अगर तत्काल शुरू कर दिया और बरसात हो गई तो पूरी सड़क बह जाती है। सरकार का सारा पैसा बर्बाद हो जाता है। यह व्यावहारिक कठिनाई होती है। मैं सिद्धांत की बात नहीं करता, कानून की बात नहीं करता। सिद्धान्त और कानून से तो उस पैसे का तुरन्त इस्तेमाल होना चाहिये। लेकिन जनता के हित में क्या है? जनता के हित में है कि मार्च में पैसा मिले और मई, जून और जुलाई में सड़क बनाई जाये। लेकिन वह सड़क पानी से बह जाती है। हमारे मित्र जो आलोचना कर रहे हैं वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट की, वे कहेंगे कि पैसे का दुरुपयोग किया गया है। मैं समझता हूं कि उस पैसे का सदुपयोग नहीं किया गया। इसलिए कि मजबूरी होती है, बंगाल सरकार की भी मजबूरी रही है और बंगाल सरकार ने इन्हीं मजबूरियों के चलते फंड का डायवर्सन किया है। कहीं दुरुपयोग का प्रमाण नहीं है। आज अहलुवालिया जी सीएजी की जितनी रिपोर्ट पढ़ रहे थे मैं उनको ध्यान से सुन रहा था। सीएजी की रिपोर्ट में कहीं यह नहीं है कि बंगाल के किसी जिम्मेदार अधिकारी ने, बंगाल सरकार के मुख्य मंत्री ने, बंगाल के मिनिस्टर ने, किसी ने पैसा का दुरुपयोग किया हो।

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया : फोडर स्कैम में लगा हुआ है.....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: आप तो सब चीजों को एक साथ मिलाना चाहते हैं। और अगर आप अपना कच्चा चिट्ठा सुनना चाहेंगे तो हम कई घंटे तक सुना सकते हैं। हम बहुत संक्षेप में बोलना चाहते हैं। अगर कच्चा चिट्ठा सुनना चाहते हो तो उसको सुनाया जा सकता है।

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: कितने चिट्ठे आपके पास हैं? पिछले 12 साल से आप भी हैं और मैं भी हूं, बहुत सुन रहे हैं। सुनाते जाइये, हम पढ़ते जायेंगे?

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: मान्यवर, इस संबंध में, बंगाल विधान सभा में कांग्रेस पार्टी जो विपक्ष की पार्टी है, उसके जरिये प्रस्ताव भी लाया गया। उस पर चर्चा हुई। इन्हीं सब बिन्दुओं पर, जिन पर आज हम विचार कर रहे हैं डाइवर्सन पर और इनका प्रस्ताव वहां पर गिर गया। हम इस बात से इंकार नहीं करते हैं कि जांच न कराई जाये। जिससे सरकार चाहे उसकी जांच कराये और मैं समझता हूं कि वेस्ट बंगाल सरकार भी इससे पीछे हटने वाली नहीं है। लेकिन जांच का निष्कर्ष क्या निकलेगा? सारे फेक्ट्स आपके सामने हैं, चाहे सी॰ए॰जी॰ की रिपोर्ट देख लीजिए या माननीय मंत्री जी का सदन में बयान पढ़ लीजिये, यह सारे तथ्य हैं। सी॰बी॰आई के लोग कोई सुपर ह्युमेन तो नहीं हैं कि वह कहीं कोई दूसरा एवीडेंस तो ले नहीं आएंगे, साक्ष्य तो यही है, आज जो सदन के सामने आ गया है। सी॰ए॰जी॰ की रिपोर्ट आ गई है, माननीय मंत्री जी का बयान आ गया हैं। ले दे कर इतना ही तथ्य सामने आता है कि पैसा वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट के पास गया और उसके बाद उसने इसे पर्सनल लेजर अकाऊंट में ट्रांस्फर कर दिया। क्या पूरे देश के अन्दर वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट ही है जिसने पर्सनल लेजर अकाऊंट खोला है। मैं माननीय शास्त्री जी का हृदय से सम्मान करता हूं विद्वान है गुरु है लेकिन क्या आप

उदाहरण ले सकते हैं कि जहां आपकी सरकारें हैं, उन सरकारों ने पर्सनल लेजर अकाउंट नहीं खोले है? पर्सनल लेजर अकाउंट खोलना मजबूरी होती है। अगर पर्सनल लेजर अकाउंट नही खोले जाएंगे तो भारत सरकार जो 80 प्रतिशत पैसा देती है राज्य सरकारों को वह उसी तरह से वापिस कर देना पड़ेगा और जनहित का कोई भी काम संभव नहीं होगा। इसलिए मान्यवर, अच्छा हुआ अखबारों में जो समाचार छपते थे उससे देश की जनता के सामने और विशेष कर के बंगाल की जनता के सामने एक भ्रम की स्थिति पैदा होती थी। अच्छा है कालिंग अटेंशन के ज़रिये सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है और माननीय ग्रामीण क्षेत्र रोज़गार मंत्री जी का भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है और इस सदन में इस पर गम्भीरता से चर्चा हो रही है। मान्यवर, इसलिए मैं अधिक समय नहीं लेते हुए आपके माध्यम से इस सदन के सामने अपना यह विचार [illegible] हूं कि बंगाल सरकार किसी भी प्रकार फंड के डाइवर्शन करने में कदापि दोषी नहीं है और न कोई इस प्रकार की बंगाल सरकार की आलोचना होनी चाहिये। मैं और मेरी पार्टी भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ हैं, साम्प्रदायिकता के खिलाफ है लेकिन दलगत भावना से किसी के खिलाफ भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप लगाना, दलगत भावना से किसी को आरोपित करना, इसमें हम यकीन नहीं करते हैं। यह बहुत बड़ा विषय है। माननीय अहलुवालिया जी से मैं निवेदन करुंगा कि सिद्धांत के तौर पर राजनीति नहीं होनी चाहिये, कार्यक्रम के आधार पर राजनीति होनी चाहिये, अच्छी आलोचना होनी चाहिये किसी सरकार की यदि वह सरकार भ्रष्टाचार में लिप्त है तो ठीक है उसकी भ्रष्टाचार के आधार पर आलोचना होनी चाहिये लेकिन जब सारे तथ्य सामने है, सी०ए०जी० की रिपोर्ट है, मंत्री जी का बयान है तो मैं यह समझता हूं कि बंगाल सरकार फंड्ज़ के डाइवर्शन के मामले में या पर्सनल लेजर अकाउंट में इस पैसे को जमा करने में कोई गलती नहीं की है क्योंकि बाद के समय में इस पैसे का सदुपयोग हुआ है सड़क बनाने के कामों में, खाद्यान्न योजना में, 10 लाख फुट सड़क बनाने के लिए रोलर खरीदने में। सारे पैसे का सदुपयोग हुआ है। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: 2500 करोड़ रुपया रखा गया। ....**(व्यवधान)**।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: वही तो मैं कह रहा था कि अगर आलोचना की जाएगी आपके कार्यकाल की सरकारों की तो लम्बा इतिहास हो जाएगा। मैं इसमें विश्वास नहीं रखता। जो विषय है, उस विषय पर सीमित रहते हुए हैं अपने विचार प्रकट करते हुए, अपनी बात समाप्त करते हुए पुनः यह दोहरा रहा हूं कि यह जो डाइवर्शन आफ फंड्ज़ किया गया है, यह कोई क्रिमिनल एक्टीविटी नहीं है। कोई अपराध के अन्तर्गत नहीं आता है, नेग्लीजेंस हो सकती है, असावधानी हो सकती है। मैंने शुरू में कहा था व्यक्ति का इंटेंशन देखा जाता है, इरादा देखा जाता है। वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट का इरादा साफ है। वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट की नीति अच्छी थी और जो कुछ उन्होंने किया है, वह जनता के हित में किया है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपके प्रति आभार प्रकट कर रहा हूं, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर चर्चा में भाग लेने का अवसर दिया। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES): Before, I call Shri Surinder Kumar Singla, I would like to take the consent of the House to permit Shri Radhakishan Malaviya, to come and be in the Chair.

SOME HOM. MEMBERS: Yes.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Radhakishan Malaviya) *in the Chair]*

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I am extremely unhappy and pained that the hon. Minister has not presented the facts, which he was supposed to present. The country does not expect such a trash statement from the hon. Minister. The whole nation is exercised over the bigest scandal of the centuary in West Bengal. It is bigger than the fodder scam that has taken place in Bihar. Both the scams were discovered out of the C.A.G.'s report. In both the cases, the C.A.G. report has said that the Treasury is being looted and there is no audit of the accounts. I was surprised when a friend like Shri Yadav said that I was provoking him not to speak the truth. In fact, I was provoking him to realise that it is the money which belongs to the poor people of West Bengal and they have a right to claim. Sir, I would like to remind the House that the Member of the West Bengal ruling party have normally raised issues on scams, right from the Harshad Mehta to many other scams and have said whatever they wanted to say. But, they have never used this House to raise the issues relating to the Poor people. You pick up the records

of the House and you will find that they only raised issues only on one scam or the other. Now, the biggest scam of the century has occurred in West Bengal. In the first instance, they did not allow it to be raised saying that it was *sub judice.* When it is being discussed today, my colleagues, particularly Shri Ahluwalia and Shri Vayalar Ravi have presented facts and highlighted the C.A.G. remarks that it is not only a case of diversion of funds, but also a case of siphoning off of the funds. It is not really in terms of which report says what. The Report of March 31, 1996 says: Whereas Rs. 42 crores and Rs. 107.28 crores had been received by the Zila Prishads between 1990 and 1996, they were withdrawn by self-cheques. Kindly mark 'self-cheques'. Self-cheques were kept in Savings Bank Accounts in seven different banks for allotment to Gram Panchayats. The hon. Member, Shri Yadav, has said that they were kept in P.L.A. Account. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this particular technique is permitted by the West Bengal Government. I would also like to know whether it is prevalent in any other State in India. Wherein he says about the local audit. I would like to know whether this practice of local audit of the PL account is prevalent anywhere in India. Why should it be allowed in West Bengal alone. It is a designed instrument. This practice was not permited. They say that it is an authorised one. They have diverted funds. It is absolutely illegal. The PLA has not been permitted by the Accountant General of West Bengal. They have operated this account without the permission of the Accountant General. They say it is legal. They say that it is a transparent method of functioning. Are they not really looting the treasury of the State, the people's money? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this PLA practice has been there anywhere in India. If so, to what extent? What is the total flow of funds from the Central Government to various State Governments? What is the total amount used by the PLA technology designed by the Government of West Bengal? Thia is the most serious aspect.

The second most important fact is all these accounts are not audited. The bills which are supposed to be submitted for audit purposes are not audited for 12 to 13 years. How can a person say that the accounts which are not audited to be the correct ones? The C&AG in its report and the annual review the working of the Treasury in West Bengal from 1992—95 says that accounts were not audited for 10 years. This is not my report.

Now, the point I am making is about a sample check. A sample check was ordered in 15 districts. The State Government officials did not cooperate for a checking. This is the high level transparency. They were not allowed to check. They did not cooperate with the inspection officials. They had to suspend the activity. How would you check whether particular funds allocated for particular purposes are being spent or not? Are there enoguh proofs? If this has been done, then, you are justified in going the people and in telling them who has looted the poor people's money. As my hon. friend Mr. Ahluwalia, rightly said, all Zilla Paishads and local bodies are being controlled by the CPM comrades and their cadres. You know how they get elected. They get elected by rigging Elections are rigged. They control the treasury. They loot the treasury. This loot has been going on for years. How can they claim from a high moral platfrom that they are fighting against corruption? How can the most corrupt people give lectures to the countrymen. It is a shameful act. It is a most shameful act. Anyone would agree with me. They ask the Bihar Government to go. One would like to ask them. Why don't they hand over this whole enquiry to the CBI? There the CBI has started executing the court orders. The CBI is asking him to prove that he is clean. People have raised their voice against you. People suspected your honesty. You have high moral values. I don't want to quote from the world history. All Communist leaders the

world over have stashed away money in Swiss banks. You take the case of Russia, take the case of China, take the case of Poland, take the case of Czech. Are you away from those Communist leaders who are stashing away funds? I know that you have such a brilliant member, Mr. Ashok Mitra, who can imagine and invent certain things which he had to fight. He wrote an article in the *Pioneer*. I don't rememer the subject. ...where Mr. Chidambaram wrote a letter to him saying, "Prove. Why is he inventing this kind of arguments?". That was a letter written to the editor of the Pioneer. My point is, you cannot.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, my name has been taken I have to offer personal explanation. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I am just paying tributes to him that he is a good writer, he can cetainly misinfrom the country. I have given an example. *(Interruptions)*. If you want that example, I will put it before the House.

THE ASHOK MITRA: Sir, he has cast an aspersion on me. I have to reply to it. He has said something about Mr. Chidambaram writing a letter to the Pioneer newspaper. He has said it as if I have not responded to it. I wrote back, "I accept the challenge. Let him go to the court and I will give him a suitable reply." And what was the essence of the matter? All I said was that Mr. Chidambaram, our Finance Minister, went to London and told the people, "Sirs, you have ruled us for 200 years. Please come back for anoher 200 years. We promise you high profits." This is all I wrote about Mr. Chidambaram. If I am wrong, let him sue me in the court. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): Mr. Singla, please conclude.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Mr. Chidambaram has challenged him by writing a letter in the same paper to the column of which he contributed. If he has anything, he can go to the court. Why is he saying he challenged him? He challenged him in a letter in the same paper, in the Pioneer. Let him go the court.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: I have also challenged him *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Chidambaram is your friend. *(Interruptions)*. So his challenge is superior to my challenge. Whatever Mr. Chidambaram says is right and I am Ashok Mitra....*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: He is talking of London. He has to talk of London because it is his leader who spends three months in a year in London only. And in London also, he runs the West Bengal Government. *(Interruptions)*. He goes and stays in London for three months. Mr. Jyoti Basu goes there every year. *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, is he talking sense? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE: Mr. Singla, reserve something for the 8th, 9th and the 10th. Do not exhaust everything here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): Mr. Singla, please conclude.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: The West Bengal Government does not really figure in our national perspective. I have quoted the facts. I have said, if you want to come out clean, you submit yourselves to a CBI inquiry; you submit yourselves to special CID team. You are suspect that you are looting the Treasury. As Laloo Prasad Yadav Government in Bihar was doing this kind of treasury loot, so are you. You are no diferent from him.

Sir, the points I have raised are mainly three. Firstly, the PLA account was designed to loot the State Treasury; secondly, there was an illegal account. The third point I am specifically making is that there was no audit for years. This is all mentioned in the CAG reports over

a period. And the amount is staggering. It is not a small amount, Mr. Minister. If you have to really take a right and honest view on the matter, please look into it. It is something like Rs. 2500 crores! And connected with this is the Zilla Parishad level controlled by comrades and other people. It is the poor people's money.

Lastly, I would say that these points explain that it is governmentalised corruption; the Government is spreading corruption. It is really a shameful thing. Lastly, I would like to submit that if my friends believe in honesty, they should offer themselves to a C.B.I. inquiry. A C.B.I. inquiry does not require a nod from the State Government because the Central Government funds are involved. You don't have to seek the State Government's permission in this case because the Central Government's funds have been looted. You order a C.B.I. inquiry into the whole affair because there is total financial mismanagement. I would like to refer to the report of the World Bank. They have said that there is a total financial mismanagement, and through you, Sir, I request the Government to invoke article 360 of the Constitution and take appropriate action. Thank you.

SHRI SOM PAL: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, if we have a look at the whole national level, we can see for ourselves that if we go by the place occupied by various devices adopted by the Government officials and the machinery to bungle public money the rural development schemes would surely occupy the first place. It has become a most systematic method to eat up public funds in the name of rural development which has been accorded top priority in our scheme of planning and economic development. This has become the easiest way to embezzle money and use it for personal and political purposes. It was because of this thing that the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had to make a painful observation that only 15 per cent of these funds, meant for the rural development and various welfare schemes, is utilised for the desired purpose. We have been talking of these diversions, misutilisations and misuse of funds. Committee after Committee, in umpteen number of their reports, have observed the mass diversion of funds. They have highlighted the need for creating or having a monitoring mechanism so that proper utilisation of these funds in a proper manner and according to the laid down procedure is ensured. Incidentally, I have been associated with the Committee on Agriculture since its inception in 1990, for about six years, and we have observed this phenomenon in a big way. We have been going to the States to monitor the utilisation of these funds, particularly, the eastern States. When we had gone to monitor the level of implementation of the recommendations of the S.R. Sen Committee, set up by the Reserve Bank of India, and it was said in the report itself that after years, the Central Government should monitor the level of implementaion of the recommendations. This report came out in 1984, and it was adopted by the Chief Ministers of the eastern States in 1986. We were pained to see that only a very small proportion of the recommendations made by the esteemed Committee, has been implemented by the eastern States, including West Bengal. Orissa, Bihar and eastern U.P. were not far behind in not implementing the recommendations. Suggestions and recommendations in most specific and unequivocal manner have been made to create and strengthen the existing monitoring system. But I may constrained to observe again that things have been going from bad to worse. They retused to improve. The most discouraging and disgusting fact is that it has become all pervasive. It is not just confined to West Bengal. All the States have been indulging in this without any exception whatsoever. There is no exception at all. All the schemes, which are known as the Centrally-sponsored schemes of the State, and for which funds are given by the Centre, such as the Employment Assurance Scheme, RLGP, RLEP, Rural

Development Fund, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Rural and Tribal Health and Welfare Schemes, Million Wells Scheme, the Rajiv Gandhi Peyajal Yojana and other subsidies and incentives and, particularly, the Soil Conservation Scheme and Flood Control and Damage Scheme, have become proverbially notorious in all the rural areas, in the hinterland, of the nation. Another painfully interesting fact is that these are no secrets now. Everybody in the villages, the layman, knows about this gross bungling of funds. They are seeing that these funds are not being used for creating durable assests for which they are intended to be used. I must repeat that West Bengal is not the only State. It is not the only State which is misusing or mismanaging or misutilising or diverting funds. All the other States have done it and they are still doing it. As I have already said, everyone has been defaulting in this regard. I will not go into the specific details of West Bengal. I wish to impress upon the House, all sections, all parties and the Government that there is a very urgent need to have a national scheme and regime of very stringent rules to enforce financial discipline. We must put a stop to this gross financial indiscipline. Everyone has expressed on this count in all Committees. All of my friends know it. I need not go into the details again. A very transparent and effective monitoring mechanism must be created with statutory authority to discipline the recipients and the users of these funds to make them use it strictly for the specified purpose in a specified manner and procedure. The procedures are already there. But they need a better monitoring and a more effective implementation with fixed accountability and responsibility at every level in terms of time and official position. So far as West Bengal is concerned, all the facts and arguments have been given by my learned friends here. I will not go into those details. It is not at all needed. What I am trying to say is that some infallible, transparent and effective monitoring mechanism with adequate powers and teeth must be created immediately. In order to do this, the Planning Commission of India, the Central Government, the State Governments, the Parliamentary Committees, the Parliamentarians and the elected representatives at all levels must put their heads together. We must finalise such a scheme within a specified timeframe and as quickly and as early as possible. It is criminal on the part of everybody, including myself, to tolerate this fraud. It has assumed the dimension of a national fraud. If we go by the amount and the people involved, in my perception, it should be the biggest fraud perpetrated on the nation. Everybody, right from village pradhans to the top officials, to the political managers of this country, is colluding. So far as West Bengal is concerned, some diversion is there. Some mis-utilisation has been observed by the C & AG in his Report Nos. 3 and 4. The details have been given by the hon. Minister. I would not repeat them.

3.00 P.M.

So far as this Personal Ledger Account device is concerned, as rightly observed by Mr. Surinder Kumar singla, it is a new technology. Such technologies have been perfected by all these States in their own ways. It is not peculiar to West Bengal. The system of Government — this is again for the reflection of all the hon. Members and Ministers present here — is run through a series of posts, offices and organisations and accounts are always operated in the name of these offices, organisations and posts. The personal withdrawal through a self cheque is totally alien to the functioning of Governments. If there was any difficulty being faced and observed by the West Bengal Government, they should have approached the Central Government. They should have taken the other State Governments into confidence to discuss an alternative and more feasible method of administering these funds. The phenomenon of carry-overs, late transmission of funds from the Centre to the States and in turn from the States to the district

level and down below is not very unknown to the Indian system. But we must find out some method rather than indulging in this diversionary tactics and technique so that in an official, accepted, approved and authorised manner we can carry over these funds to the next year. After all that is being done even now, but in an illegal manner. The Government and the system, which is responsible for carrying out things in a legal and constitutional manner, if they choose and collude to undo that law, undo that system and not only overlook but also violate all the procedures and laws, what example will we be setting before a common man, before a layman to behave in a disciplined manner? My request to all the concerned is this must be put an end to as soon as possible. What happens after these funds are sent to the Panchayat level, particularly to Pradhans? We come from villages. We know how it is done and how the funds are bungled. Then they go beyond the reach of the organisations like the C&AG. They cannot go to villages. They have essentially got to depend upon the certification furnished by the Government officers. This paper cover up technique has been very well perfected by these people to escape any scrutiny. So the need of the hour is, that we all put our heads together. It is up to the West Bengal Government, up to all the State Governments, up to all the Chief Ministers, up to all the Ministers and parliamentarians and the people's representatives and officials, to do it. Unless we end this farce and fraud perpetrated on the nation throughout these 50 years, people will not forgive us. They will be forced to go into an uprise and nobody will be saved.

'With these words, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the issue which we have been discussing since morning has been taken up on four occasions by one or the other constitutional fora.

Sir, as you are aware, the funds meant for rural development schemes are kept in the Local Fund Account. I think it will be better to dispel one constant misinformation that has been given to the House that these are Personal Ledger Accounts. A substantial difference between the two accounts is this. As my friend has rightly mentioned, for opening up a personal Ledger Account, C&AG's permission is necessary. But for keeping money in the Local Fund Account, prior permission of the C&AG is not necessary.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi) in the Chair].

Sir, at the very outset I would like to clarify another point. A case is being made out as if the West Bengal Government invented this new technology of Personal Ledger Account to skirt the normal procedure of Government's functioning and financial management to divert funds that the West Bengal Government was receiving on account of rural development. Now Sir, the West Bengal Government is a constitutionally elected Government. It has to function within the parameters not only of Central guidelines but also of the specified Acts which are enacted by the State Legislature. Being a State Government, it is primarily responsible to the State Legislature and the State Acts. Therefore, when the Central Government's orders, executive's orders in the form of guidelines and the provisions of the State Act come into conflict, it is the State enactment which prevails and it is in this background that the State Government had been keeping this money meant for rural development in Local Fund Account. This State Act, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, was not the product of the West Bengal Government which came to power after 1977. This Act was enacted by the State Legislature in the year 1973 and the specific treasury rules and subsidiary rules which have been guiding these funds were created even before the first United Front Government came to power in West Bengal in 1967. The rules date back to

1964. We have been hearing of figures and just like flies; crores, thousand crores, two thousand crores, four thousand five hundred crores of rupees have been talked of. When you quote figures, why should you put a limit on your imagination? So, Shri Ahluwalia came up with a final figure of lakhs of crores of rupees. Mr. Chidambaram is not here. That would have solved many of our problems. Every day, we Members of Parliament, raise certain legitimate demands and the Government says that there is paucity of funds, we cannot do this and we cannot do that. In a particular State, if lakhs of crores of rupees are being diverted in this manner and if that could be nabbed, perhaps, the entire financial difficulties of the country could be overcome. So, I think that kind of figure quoting does not really merit any serious response and I will not venture into that. But, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am really upset with the manner in which a person like Mr. Vayalar Ravi has brought this Calling Attention Motion. So far as facts are concerned, we have no problem. We understand that there are political compulsions and certain things have to be done and it has been done. No problem, we can take care of that. But, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, a more serious constitutional issue is at stake. Now, day in and day out, our friends from the benches there are running a crusade against judicial activism. They are saying that courts are encroaching upon areas which they are not supposed to. Now, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, being a former CAG...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I am afraid, if you want my advice, you will have to pay consultancy fees if the rules of the House so permit. I am here as a Vice-Chairman.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I am a poor man. I am just referring to your old position. Sir, finances of Government is the sovereign right of the legislature to be discussed. The CAG audits the finances of State Governments, Central Government and we decide the Budget and we see to it how it is spent. Once a CAG report comes to the legislature, whether it is the Parliament, whether it is a State Assembly, the PAC examines it. It is an inalienable right of the PAC, it is an inalienable right of the State Legislature to examine it. Kumari Mamata Banerjee does not belong to the CPI (M), Kumari Mamata Banerjee does not belong to the BJP, Kumari Mamata Banerjee does not belong to any other party; she belongs to the party of Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: She belongs to Lok Sabha.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: By doing what she did, by driving the entire case to the High Court, she has encroached upon the legitimate powers of the legislature.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): She is a Member of the other House. Why name her? You can say, a Member of Parliament from West Bengal.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: But she belongs to a party and that party takes a position and she takes a different position. Naturally, they have to understand this thing. What is the implication? This amounts to an infringement on the legitimate rights of the legislature. Now, Sir, what was the plea made to the High Court? The plea was that a secret report of the CAG should be placed before the High Court because they do not believe in the rights of the legislature. The legislature could not be believed. Then the court, a Single-Judge Bench, have an order and it was referred to a Division Bench. The Division Bench said, "Nothing doing; there is Article 151 of the Constitution and the report has to be caused to be placed in the House by the Government and most normally through the Finance Minister of the particular Government." This is the position. Now, we have been

-saying that CAG is not the creation of any particular political party. It is a creation of the Constitution. Therefore, let the CAG go through it and after the CAG's final report comes, then let the PAC go through it. Then, if there is any serious problem in the PAC, definitely further action has to be taken. No doubt about that. Sir, to tell you the truth, another misinformation has been carried on and that is the local fund account where this money is kept is not audited by the CAG. Sir, it is the prerogative of the State Government to get the accounts audited by whichever agency it likes. But in 1980, the then West Bengal Government, incidently Dr. Ashok Mitra was the Finance Minister at that time, decided in public interest that because it was a very big experiment for us in Bengal, — in 1978, as you know, a new system of Panchayati Raj started and because of that, a huge amount of money was handled by the Panchayat, — it would be unfair to get it audited by our own agency. Therefore, it is one of the very few State Governments which gets its Panchayat funds audited by the CAG and gets cash money from the State Government. It has to pay for the services through the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts who is under CAG. Therefore, the monies kept in the local fund account do not escape CAG audit as has been made out. So, Sir, the point is very, very clear that since 1980, since the JRY scheme and other schemes, have been introduced as and when they have been introduced, money is going to the State Government.

The State Government, in turn, deposits that money in the local fund account. This local fund account, at the Zilla Parishad level and at the Panchayat Samiti level, is being audited by the CAG. Now there is some delay in the auditing procedure. For that, the Accountant-General, West Bengal, himself has admitted before an Assembly Sub-Committee that there is a shortage of manpower and, therefore, there is some delay. The Gram Panchayat accounts, which are audited by a State Government agency, are being audited and they are running on schedule. We wanted that the Panchayat funds should also be audited by the CAG. But the point is that the CAG audits those accounts which have a certain proportion. If it is much below that proportion, he does not audit it and he cannot go into it. Therefore, the Gram Panchayat accounts are not audited by the CAG.

Certain allegations are made. Mr. Ravi has quoted from a report. Mr. Ahluwalia has quoted from a letter. With all humility, we want to point out that none of these documents is authorised by the CAG of India. The report about which Mr. Ravi talked is actually an inspection report. It contains a very rough, sketchy form of ideas about how the treasury is being maintained. It is a compilation done by the AG's office from the Finance Accounts of the CAG and also from the treasury inspection reports of the AG for the same period. This annual review was prepared to enable the State Government as well as the treasury officers to take some measures on certain issues regarding treasury functioning. However, certain gross anomalies were detected by the State Government in this report. The figures which contained certain anomalies were subsequently revised by the CAG himself. For example. the closing balance, as shown in the report for the year 1990-91, was Rs. 1,509.64 crores. But the CAG's Finance Accounts for the relevant year put the figures at Rs. 694.83 crores. Acutally more than 50% was not accounted for because the entire disbursals did not take place. Similarly, for the year 1991-92, as against Rs. 1,747.21 crores mentioned in the report, the figure given by the CAG's Finance Accounts was Rs. 738.15 crores. For the year 1992-93, as against Rs. 1,628.26 crores, the figure given by the CAG was Rs. 758.69 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Basu, you have to be a little bit brief.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you have been following the debate. Many points have been made. I think you should bear with me because certain factual refutations are necessary to be made.

Sir, the documents that Mr. Ashok Mitra referred to and the points that he made are very valid. The difficulty is that we are discussing an issue which legitimately belongs to the State Legislature, to its PAC. It has wrongly gone to the Court. The audit process which is being carried out by the CAG at the present point of time is sought to be discussed here, in isolation. This is the difficulty in really having a debate in a manner which is not in consonance with the normal practice of the House. You pick up one State and start discussing the whole issue here, in this august House. I think we are doing justice neither to the constitutional implications of the issue nor to the dignity of this House. We are prepared to refute each and every factual information that has been dished out in this House. The procedure is very, very clearly laid down that the audit process is a continuous process. When initial queries are made, the State Government Department or the Central Government Department or any other agency that is being audited, come up with their responses and generally 90 per cent of the initial queries get dropped in this process. You will also agree with me what the implication of audit is. I don't really understand our friends like Ahluwaliaji. Yesterday we were listening intently to this debate on Bihar. What was his position? His position was that there is such a bad organisation called CBI, there is the worst officer called Biswas and so on. What is his position now? He thinks that justice can be done in this case of this great scam in West Bengal only if investigation is handed over to an agency like CBI and under an officer like Upen Biswas. I am not commenting on the credibility of CBI or anything like that. I am only pointing out that this is the approach. So, we start denigrating our institutions for political convenience. This country has enough of problems. The best thing that we can do for ourselves at this juncture is to try and defend our institutions. People can come and go, parties can come and go, Governments can come and go, but institutions remain. Once we denigrate and decimate our institutions, we will not be able to cope with the kind of frightening future that we are going to face tomorrow. So, at this juncture our approach should be to find out what the factual position is. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta has already given the break-up. 86% of normal transactions were through the treasury; Deposit Accounts—bulk for public sector organisations, etc. through Deposit Accounts; 8% of the money through Local Fund Accounts which are audited by CAG; and finally, about 3% through PL Account. The latest reports that are available have been given in response to the Starred Question No. 102 by the Minister. It is true that there is diversion. But there is diversion in all States. Som Palji very highly pointed about some institutional mechanism. I think the institutional mechanism is what the Chief Ministers' Conference has decided. I don't know whether Ahluwaliaji and Raviji are aware of this but Shri Digvijay Singh of their party was present there. I don't know where Mr. Vishnu Kant Shastri is but Shekhawat Saheb attended that Conference. It is precisely for this reason that in the area of rural development, unless you have space for greater flexibility, your schemes cannot perform well. What was the spirit behind the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution? It was that we cannot manage development process from Delhi or the State capitals. Sir, money is going for JRY during the rainy season!

Now, you tell me. It is a scheme which combines aspects of infrastructure building and wage-employment generation. Major projects that are undertaken are road-building. Now, during the monsoon, can you build roads? So, what is happening? The Panchayats are spending that money for social forestry during that time

and when subsequent money is coming, they are recouping back that money. This is perfectly legitimate and this flexibility has to be built into the programme. Because of the difficulty, all the Chief Ministers, Sir, I repeat all the Chief Ministers, irrespective of political parties have, therefore, suggested that this kind of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes should all be transferred to the States. Sir, this is an overall policy issue on which I think everybody should opine. It is not correct on our part to politicise the issue and approach the problem like that. The CAG itself has noted in its report as to why such diversions are taking place. Sir, I quote here from Report No. 1 of 1997, year ended 31st March, 1996. Under 10.7, the CAG has reported, "The details should indicate that in respect of almost all expenditure on grants, loans, and investment, the funds have been released only in the month of March. It is necessary to consider the functional impact of this practice." Sir, the CAG further notes, "Since the funds released in March to various organisations cannot be constructively spent during the year, it is not possible to conclude whether these funds were applied for the purpose for which they were authorised. It is also leading to a tendency to deposit the money in personal ledger account."

Sir, this is the problem we are faced with. Somebody was criticising the Central Government for this. I don't really do that because I have been associated with the Standing Committee also. Sir, the problem is, the Central Government has no other option. They have to wait for the proper utilisation certificate from the State Government. And once they are convinced that the money has been properly spent, they can release the final instalment of the money and that naturally drags on till the end of the year. Sir, this is the problem. Therefore, I think the only solution that we can work out constitutionally is, as the Chief Ministers' conference has pointed out, shifting the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes to the States, to allow flexibility that the schemes require, at the same time...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It is time for you to sum up.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, please, because very...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Another two minutes, that is what you raised your finger for.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, about five to six minutes. Please bear with me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Five to six minutes! What about other speakers?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, why have charges been made about the integrity of the State Government, about the manner in which they have dealt with the AG officials? Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote a letter written on 3rd December, 1996 by Mr. A.N. Chatterjee, Accountant General. He is writing to the State Government officials:

> "Dear Shri Gupta, I am happy to inform you that my office has been able to finalise the finance and appropriation accounts of the Government of West Bengal for the year 1995-96 well ahead of the scheduled target date. This would not have been possible but for the active co-operation and effective efforts of the Finance Department. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my gratitude to the concerned officers and staff involved in the compilation and redemption of accounts to my office."

Sir, this is being contradicted by the letter supposedly written by the DAG on 18th of June. So, within six months, such a change of heart! Such a reversal of facts! Sir, that letter is an unauthorised letter, not authenticated even by the AG.

Sir, you know, this kind of things are very, very irregular. We do not want to

go into the details of the manner in which he has been functioning because he is an independent Constitutional authority and I think, invoking that letter here is most out of place and most out of taste. Now I come to the question of diversion, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I thought you have covered this earlier.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: One more point about diversion, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): The high point of restructuring institutions was really the juncture for you to wind up.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Very kind of you to suggest how I can structure my intervention. *(Interruptions)* Sir, apart from all these things, such wild charges have been made. I do not know where Mr. Shastri has now gone. *(Interruptions)* If I characterise BJP by...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It shows the lack of seriousness. If they are interested in the discussion, they should have been here. We are here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Fernandes said that most of them are having coffee and that they are also watching on TV. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, he said that I have only this responsibility. If we start characterising the BJP how Shankar Singh Vaghela characterises the BJP, would it be fair? I will leave it to you. Finally, undaunted by the stand of the Calcutta High Court, which upheld the position of the State Government, now Kumari Mamata Banerjee has come up with a second application. The main contention of the application filed last Monday is non-belief in the CAG. She is now saying, "I have no faith in the CAG because they have colluded with the State Government." It also took the same position on whether the CAG report should be placed in the Assembly or in the High Court. Now where do we stand, Sir?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): That is the Constitutional position.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: When the Minister says that it is *sub-judice*, they have an objection to it. When we bring out issues related to the case, there is a problem for them. This is outrageous. In the CAG they have no faith and, therefore, the CBI should go into and private auditors should be allowed to go into the accounts of the State Government!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I hope, the AICC Session in Calcutta was the best; but I do not know. I am not a God-fearing man but only God can save this.

Sir, my final point is that the taste of the pudding is in its eating. For the last twenty years, in this country and abroad, what has been the record of Panchayats and the West Bengal Government? How many researches have taken place on the Panchayats system in West Bengal? How many internationally acclaimed researchers have worked on the West Bengal model? Sir, no money has been spent and everything has been diverted! Highest agricultural growth in the last ten years in the whole country! Sir, diversion in social forestry in 1978—only 9%. Forest coverage in West Bengal—more than 13 per cent, the highest in the country and more than the national average. I am given to understand that one particular newspaper is very concerned about all these things. It has been raising questions about all these things.

They are quoting these audit queries just to come to a conclusions that there has been a big financial scam. I am given to understand that a particular Press was served with an Income-tax notice of Rs. 7.8 crores in April 1996. That matter is disputed and has been referred to the Tribunal. Now, will it be fair on our part

to conclude that this particular Press has embezzled and evaded tax to the tune of Rs. 7.8 crores? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: *Anand.* ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Why are you disturbing your colleague?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, such issues should be discussed with a little bit of sense of responsibility. Sir, we have created a precedent today in the House. Sir, could you find out a single audit report, either written here in this country or elsewhere in the world in which adverse notings are not there? Sir, the audit is a method to find out the shortcomings and lacunae in the accounting procedures and to ensure that the quality of management improves. Sir, to conclude from an aduit report, *per see* that there is a scam, this can only be a work of a sick mind. Finally, Sir, I thank you for your indulgence and I conclude by saying that we will have to follow the CAG Report and what comes out from it and ensure that a proper discussion takes place on the Central PAC as well as the State PACs. We have to work and try to see that these institutions are really protected. Otherwise, this country has a very, very bleak future. Thank you.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: It was a good speech. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: It is a cover-up, not a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, scams after scams have become the order of the day of late in our country. It proves that in the 50th year of our Independence our system has outlived. It is high time that we had a an introspection and saw that we changed our system. Sir, whatever cosmetics we may put over this system by way of economic reforms, by way of globalisation, by way of liberalisation, etc., we will not be able to achieve the desired results. Sir, when the UF Government was formed, it appeared to the whole country that the CPM would be the soul keeper of the Central Government because their General Secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet had been making statements as if he was the only sole saint in the country and the other political parties in the country were involved in scams, scams and scams. Sir, the scam which we are discussing today involves an amount of Rs. 4,500 crores. But, the Press report which I have with me states that this scam will come up to Rs. 5,500 crores. It is a mega scam of the century which shadows and makes all other scams to look pigmy. Sir, we had the so-called Bofors scam of Rs. 64 crores ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): That is why you are worried.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: I am proudly saying so. I am not worried because we cannot put things under the carpet. We have to discuss them and place the facts before the nation. In this way, we will have the support of the people for changing the system. Sir, I was saying that there was a so-called Bofors scam of Rs. 64 crores. Then we have the Urea scam of Rs. 133 crores. Then we have the second mega scam of Rs. 950 crores in a Janata Dal-ruled State of Bihar. This scam is known as the fodder scam. Now, the biggest scam is under discussion. Sir, I do not blame the parties and the Governments. I have already said that. We blame the system. But, there is a limit to blaming the system. When Mr. Nilotpal Basu was speaking—he belongs to the CPM—I told him that the hon. Minister would cover up the whole thing and defend you. I have a reason for this because when last week we raised this matter in the House, the hon. prime Minister was here. He stood up and said that that matter was *sub judice*. I can understand if he says this at Dum Dum Airport but he said this in this Parliament. Today, we are discussing the

same matter. I thank the hon. Chair for giving a ruling because this House also has its own wisdom. It has its won jurisdiction to discuss national issues. No issue, however major it may be, can be convered or hidden in the garb of a judicial review. My comrades from the left said with authority and command that the West Bengal Government is a Government constituted under the Constitution of India. Well and good. We do not deny that. Now, the C&AG of India is also an authority appointed by the President under the Constitution. Articles 202 and 206 of the same Constitution also speak about audit of public funds in this country. I do not think that they should pick and choose and apply only certain parts of the Constitution as suit them. They have also to see, by saying this, they have defied and defamed the same Constitution by which they swear. I have no objection to the diverting of funds. In the morning Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, was saying, when I was sitting in the Chair, "what do you mean by diversion of funds? It is a not misappropriation." Well and good. it is not misappropriation. It is not misappropiration provided you account for it, provided you produce the pass books before the authority for investigation, provided you bring bills for investing the money, for making expenditure for that amount and do not produce bogus utility certificates. We have debated in this House, where there is terrorism in States, the State Government machinery or the State Government Departments, the public works contractors are being coerced by the terrorists because they need funds and funds are being taken away by the terrorists. It has happened in Jammu and Kashmir. I have said in this very House that terrorists take away this money and out of fear the administration has to give a utility certificate though there is no work done. The Government of West Bengal is such a peaceful Government and it has the majority. They claimed that 60% of people are with them. We do not deny that because they have collected the Opposition votes by forming a Left Front. In 1977, during the days of emergency, they came to power. We have no objection but the *modus operandi* they have adopted for the last twenty years to remain in power is most objectionable. They claimed that they had implemented the Panchayati Raj in 1978. Well and good. We have passed the 73rd and the 74th Amendments to the Constitution in this House in 1990s. Well and good. They are very much progressive. We have no complaint against it. The thing is, funds given by the Central Government for the alleviation of poverty in the rural areas belongs to the people of West Bengal irrespective of the party to which they belong; they may belong to left, right or centre. No Government in office has a right to usurp those funds for that particular party. What is happening in West Bengal is, in the name of Panchayati Raj they have cornered all Panchayati Raj elections—of course, they have done it through ballot, not through bullet because we accept the rule of law in this country.

The fund has been diverted to the party cadres and that is the secret. But, now, the cat is out of the bag. That is the secret by which they are clinging to power for the last twenty years. I have no objection. What I want is, you fight election in a most democratic manner. Do not put your party above the Government. We have seen what has happened to the former USSR. There the party was put above the Government. What happened? The iron wall came down and the country disintegrated. Why? Because the party was put above the Government. The General Secretary of the Communist Party was the President of the country there. Now, this is what they are doing. Because this is something old, it is out of fashion. See what China is doing. They have developed. They have advanced. They are developing the rural economy. The so-called liberatlisation of the Central

Government and even the State Government, does not change the people in rural areas. It is for the people in urban areas. The entire amount of Rs. 4,500 crores, which should have gone to the poor people, the have-nots in rural areas, has been snatched away by the party cadres. You have thousands of sweepers on the pay-roll of West Bengal Municipal Corporations. But, if you go and see the streets, only John Major has to come there and clean the city. I mean no offence to that city because I love that city. But, it is one of the dirtiest cities. Anyway, I just want to say that there are a lot of sweepers, but, in reality, there are no sweepers on the streets because the money has been siphoned off by the party cadres to remain in power. They are in power for the last twenty years. Well, that is the *modus operandi* they adopt in a democracy. This is not fair in a democracy. We cannot play that game in a democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: This time you go and see Calcutta and you will yourself realise ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: I compliment Mr. Jyoti Basu and the then Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. John Major. Since the scam stands exposed, your party cadres will have to come to sweep it and clean it. I think, that is the point you are referring to.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I thing, you are arguing against it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: I am not arguing against it. I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Please don't interrupt.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what I am trying to say is and what pains me is that the bureaucrats and politicians connive. They form a nexus. As per the Report, it is said in the press that out of Rs. 4,500 crores, Rs. 200 crores have been cornered by bureaucracy. That is their share, which they have got out of the total scam. This amount has been spent for lavish parties and vulgarity, which no Marxism or Communism permits. They have lavish parties in the evening, luxurious furniture, and so on. It is my report that bureaucrats in that city are worth anything more than Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores. Most of the properties are owned by them *benami*, either in the name of wife or, you know, I will not name them. Now, we are saying that the CAG has submitted the report. Some hon. Members rightly mentioned that the CAG has only pointed out that, it is not a prosecuting authority. The prosecuting authority is the State law and order machinery. But, when the Government of a State itself is involved in it, how can they prosecute themselves? While raising this issue, I have said about my State, Goa, also, when a Chief Minister is involved in a scam or in a racket, let it be of Rs. 10 crores or of thousands of crores of rupees, how can the CBI go to the same person and ask, "Please give me power to prosecute you". Therefore, as I have said, we have to initiate or institute a mechanism, where the CBI can directly go and prosecute a person. Now, the CBI is acting under the Delhi Special Police Act, 1946, a colonial law. We are still using the same law. Why don't we change our law? When there are scams and scams and scams and when you have no federal system in the country, my State Government also says they are going to investigate us in Rs. 10 crores racket of an irrigation project, which is being litigated before the court, you better pack from Goa, get out from Goa. So, this is the problem. What I am trying to say is when a Government is itself involved in a scam, who will investigate the matter? Therefore, as requested by my hon. colleagues, the CBI should investigate the matter, because the State Government cannot prosecute itself.

It is said that this racket has been going on for the last ten years. The so-called scam is going on. I do agree with you that the funds cannot be diverted. It

was said to be done in my State, Goa, also. Then, I got my first crow there. It was diverted to the funds of the State exchequer. The then Chief Minister of Goa said that he wanted to give salary to the Government staff out of that fund. So, I raised objection to that in the chamber of the Chairman, Smt. Margaret Alva was the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs at that time. We have seen that this fund has been diverted to a separate account, which cannot be diverted to the State funds. I am told that there are allegations of diverting of funds. Then it is used for things for which it should not be used. But, even if you divert, you cannot hide it from the public view for ten years. Even if you divert, you have to replenish it. This has not been done. This has not been done for the last ten years. I do not know what reply my hon. colleagues can give to this. Of course, they would defend. I know they would defend the action. I have no objection to that. But my point is: the money has to come back. Where has the money gone? Even the CAG does not know where the money has gone. Has it just disappeared in thin air? It has not disappeared in thin air. This is my charge. It has gone into the pockets of their party cadres who have kept them in power for the last twenty years. This is my charge. Such a thing is alien to any democratic system. I do not know what is happening in other States. I do not know what is happening in Kerala. Mr. Vayalar Ravi would be knowing about it better.

If this is the way we allow the democratic system to go on, I do not know what is going to happen in future. I think a stage would be reached where what had happened in the erstwhile Soviet Union may happen here. They have kept their party above the people. They have kept their party above the people. They have kept their party cadre above the people. They have kept their party cadre above public interest. If this is the way, I do not think we can wipe out poverty in the country.

My friends, the Communists, have a particular philosophy and ideology of Marxism. I think what they are doing is just the opposite of Marxism. Marxism is being used only to fool the people and just to remain in power. If Karl Marx comes to know of such things, such scams, he would turn in his grave.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Dasgupta, you should listen to him also.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, this was their complaint against us.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am looking at the Chair.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: We are not making any comments because he is not making any points. One has to make serious points.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, they are not disputing. There is nothing to dispute. Don't instigate them. They accept it.

The point I want to emphasise here is that we cannot allow this money to disappear. This money cannot be allowed to disappear. It is the people's money. This money has to come back.

Sir, I have some more points. I have quite a few points. But I would not go into the statistics because they are disputing it. The Government would also, naturally, dispute it because they are part of the United Front Government. I do not think...

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: If you have statistics, please quote them.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: These statistics are placed in the Parliament Library. We cannot have access to the West Bengal Assembly. We have to take the statistics from the Parliament Library. It has been authenticated.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: That is the CAG report. Do you have confidence in the CAG?

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Certainly: we have confidence in the CAG. We referred to the report. When Mr. Ahluwalia was referring to it, I was in the Chair. The Minister was disputing.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Do you have confidence in the CAG? Do you agree that he is the final authority?

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Certainly; we have confidence. He is a Constitutional authority. We believe in the Constitution. You don't. You pick and choose from the Constitution to suit your convenience and just to save your Government.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Are you not satisfied with the CAG report?

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: When did we say that we do not believe in any Constitutional authority? (*Interruptions*) What is before the court I am not going to raise. Not that I cannot raise.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: In that case, you should not have moved the Calling-Attention Motion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Let the facts come out. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: You cannot pick and choose facts which suit your convenience. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Basu, please allow him to speak. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Basu, since your time is over, you have started interrupting him.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Nothing like that.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: You said that you would listen to him quietly, but you are interrupting.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: As I said earlier, whatever matter is before the court, I am not raising it. It is *sub judice*. I have great respect for the judiciary. It is a Constitutional authority. It is one of the pillars of our democracy. I have great respect for that institution. Not that I am not entitled to raise the matter. But I am not referring to it. It is open to any citizen, any private individual, to file a petition and get a verdict from a court. But if somebody goes before a court and files a case, that is not binding on me. It is open to any citizen, any private individual, in the country to go before a court and seek remedy. But that should not be binding on me.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I will just make a point that the litigant here is not a mere individual. She is an elected member of the Congress Party.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: She is a Member of the other House. I do not want to refer to her. She may be an elected member. I am also an elected Member of this House. I have my personal liberty. I have my civil liberty. I am not a slave of my party. I have my rights.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Yes, you are free to say whatever you think right.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: I have my rights, and I have my privileges. We are not slaves of our party. I do not know whether the Communists know that. We are free people. We can go to court as free citizens. We do not have to take the consent of our party. I have raised so many issues against my Government when it did something illegal. Winding up the CBI from Goa is not legal. My Party or my high command has not supported it. It has been done by some corrupt elements who were scared of public interest litigations. We are free citizens.

This is what I am trying to say. I think I should not continue for long. My colleagues, my comrades should not get provoked. We have many friends who will speak.

With these few words, I hope the money which has been looted by the Treasury of West Bengal, will go to the people, the poorest people, the rural people of West Bengal, who deserve it and not to the cadres of the marxist Party.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Sir, kindly advise him not to go away because all his friends have gone away.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Even if I go away, I will watch him on Doordarshan.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You should be satisfied by this assurance.

SHRI JOYANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, it is really amazing that on the basis of some distorted version of the accounting procedure and preliminary audit queries our hon. friends have launched this campaign of disinformation against the Left Front Government to malign that Government with an intention to have some mileage in the coming Panchyat elections. This is the basic intention of our friends. They have raised these issues of rather misappropriation of more than Rs. 4,500 crores of Central Government funds by the Government of West Bengal. It is untrue and baseless.

Sir, before going into it in detail, I want to state that for the last 20 years the left Front Government in West Bengal has constitutionally maintained a very good mutual trust and relationship with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, his representative in the State and the local audit team. Therefore, it is very much relevant to raise this point with my learned friends who did not realise the actual difference between a local fund account and a personal ledger account. This is the thing.

Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta rightly mentioned that only 3 per cent of the Central fund was diverted to the PL account. Mr. Nilotpal Basu has elaborately clarified that as per the Act of the Government of West Bengal, 20 per cent of the Central funds was lying with the Zilla Parishads and the Panchayat Samitis, because 80 per cent of the Central assistance is going directly to the Gram Panchayat. Not auditing the accounts of the Zilla Parishads and those of the Panchayat Samitis is not the fault of the State Government. This is the fault of the auditors of the Accountant General's Office in Calcutta. They do not have sufficient hands to undertake the audit of the Panchayat Samitis and the Zilla Parishads. This *mala fide* allegation is being raised with a political motive.

My learned friend, Shri John Fernandes has stated that the secret of the Left Front Government staying in power in West Bengal for the last 20 years is that it has the *modus operandi* of sucking the Government money and distributing it to its cadres. This is not true because the party of Mr. John Fernandes was in power for the last 40 years. It had sufficient funds. It had many opportunities to pump out several thousand crores of rupees.

4.00 P.M.

My point is why they were thrown out of power. It is not correct to say that we are trying to keep ourselves in power with the help of money. This is a totally false allegation. They are doing it intentionally.

Some hon. Members have alleged that C.A.G. has adversely commented on the financial irregularities of the State. Sir, C.A.G. has never raised any question about the local fund accounts of 1995-96 in respect of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and Employment Assurance Schemes. They have only said that the Government has lost some interest money as the money was not kept in the Savings Bank Account. Earlier I clarified the position. Our position is that 80 per cent of the funds are straightway going to the Gram Panchayats and that those funds are being kept there in the Savings Bank

accounts. Therefore, the allegation of misappropriation is not correct.

Diversion of funds is a minor thing. Only 3.8 per cent of Rs. 345.01 crores of Central assistance spent during the year 1990-94 has been diverted. This diversion does not mean misappropriation, because other States in the country are also following the same practice.

My last point is on the question of audit. The State Government conducts up-to-date audit in almost all the Gram Panchayats. In respect of Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis, audit has not yet been completed. That is not lapse of the State Government, but that of the C.A.G.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It is not the lapse of the C.A.G., as you said. It is because they do not have the funds. You give them funds from Parliament to increase their strength. That is the only assignment where one pays, but does not call the tune. As your colleauge has said, they do not have sufficient strength. Therefore, the process becomes very elongated. Next time you take care of what you said, and give them more funds.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Sir, how many more speakers are there? The hon. Minister is waiting for his reply to the debate. I am also waiting. The Leader of the Opposition is also waiting.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): At the moment I see only five hon. Members who have to speak.

श्री वसीम अहमद (उत्तर प्रदेश): आनरेबल वाइसचेयरमैन साहब ...**(व्यवधान)**

अग्रवाल साहब, मैं मुश्किल से दो मिनट लूंगा।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: दो मिनट नहीं, आप दस मिनट लीजिए, मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। केवल ऐसा है कि होम मिनिस्टर साहब इतने बिज़ी है ....**(व्यवधान)** वह हिन्दुस्तान के होम मिनिस्टर है, तो उनको कोई काम करना है, कोई मीटिंग में जाना है, अगर उनका रिप्लायी आज नहीं होना है तो फिर यह क्लीअर हो जाए कि पांच बजे के बाद हाउस बैठना है या नहीं। ....**(व्यवधान)** क्योंकि आज तो यही डिबेट होगी और इसी का रिप्लायी होगा। ....**(व्यवधान)**

गृह मंत्री (श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त): आज रिप्लायी नहीं होना है? ....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: मैं तो आपकी मदद के लिए बोल रहा हूं। कायदे से तो आपको पूछना चाहिए था चेअर से कि आप कब तक यहां बैठे रहेंगे। आप मेरे 20 साल पुराने साथी है। आप सब से अच्छे मंत्री है। भले आदमी है। इसलिए मैं पूछ रहा हूं कि आपका जवाब हो तो आप बैठें, नहीं हो तो फिर क्यों बैठें?

श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त: जो आप हुक्म देगें।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: नहीं, मेरा हुक्म नहीं है। मैं तो चेअर से अनुरोध कर रहा हूं कि क्या समय होगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): नहीं, वह उनकी दिलचस्पी है उसमें जो डिसकशन चल रही है वह उसे सुन रहे है। अगर वह सुनें तो हमें और आपको क्या एतराज हो सकता है। हम तो उनका अभिनंदन करते है की वह और अधिक राज्य सभा में बैठे। ....**(व्यवधान)** श्री वसीम अहमद। ....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: लैफ्ट वाले इसलिए खुश हो रहे हैं कि आई०आर०ए० बिल विदड्रा हो गया, इसलिए आप तो सैलीबरेट करो। ...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री वसीम अहमद: वाइस चेयरमैन साहब, आज का कालिंग अटेंशन जो हमारे साथियों ने यहां पर हाउस में रखा और उसकी टैक्नीकल जितनी चीज़ें थीं बहुत डिटेल में यहां आ चुकी हैं, मैं उन डिटेल्ज़ में नहीं जाना चाहता और आपने मेरे ख्याल से वहैसियत चूंकि आप सी०ए०जी० रह चुके हैं और पूरी तफसील से आपने इसके लिए भरपूर मौका भी दिया तथा खुद भी आप उससे लुत्फ-अंदाज़ हो रहे हैं। मेरा मानना सिर्फ इतना है कि यह जो मामला वेस्ट बंगाल में पर्सनल लेजर एकाउंट का चल रहा है और आज जो इस हाउस में उठाया गया इसमें पॉलिटिक्स ज्यादा थी और मैरिट कम थी। मैरिट पर अगर बात को देखा जाए तो सब से पहले हमें यह सोचना चाहिये और देखना चाहिये कि सी०ए०जी० स्टैटुटरी बॉडी है। उसकी रिपोर्ट अगर आ जाए उसके बाद उनमें जो कमियां रह जाएं तब इस हाउस में डिसकस करें तो हम यह समझेंगे कि हम इस केस को मैरिट पर कर रहे हैं। दूसरा मेरा इस मुद्दे पर कहना यह है कि अगर फाइनांशेल ईयर के अंदर पैसा खत्म हो रहा

है और पर्सनल एकाउंट में अगर वह पैसा जा रहा है तो हमें यह देखना पड़ेगा कि क्या वह सरकारी काम में इस्तेमाल हो रहा है या गैर सरकारी काम में इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। अगर वह सरकारी काम में इस्तेमाल हो रहा है तो इस पर भी हमें गौर करना चाहिए कि पिछले पांच सालों से आज सिर्फ वेस्ट बंगाल में नहीं, बल्कि अकेले वेस्ट बंगाल को प्वायंट आउट करना यह एक पोलिटीकल मोटीवेटेड बात है, जबकि 13 स्टेट्स में इस किस्म की बातें चल रही हैं। इस पर भी हमें गौर करना चाहिये। तीसरी चीज़ यह है कि यहां हमारे साथियों ने बार-बार सी०बी०आई० की इन्क्वायरी की बात कही है। सी०बी०आई० के बारे में जाहिर है मैं किसी एजेंसी पर कोई एलीगेशन नहीं लगाना चाहता हूं। लेकिन उस एजेंसी को आप देखिए यानी कोटरोची का हाल क्या हुआ? यहां से कैसे भागे। यूरिया स्कैम में क्या हुआ, फोडर स्कैम में क्या हुआ? किसी स्कैम को भी देख लीजिएगा उसका हाल क्या हुआ? सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि हर चीज़ में सी०बी०आई० की इन्क्वायरी की डिमांड करना यानी प्रीमैच्योर मैं नहीं समझता हूं कि यह मुनासिब बात है। आज हमारे साथियों को चाहिये कि चीज़ों को मैरिट पर देखें। अगर वहां पर कुछ भी होता है वेस्ट बंगाल के अंदर, मैं उसको कोई डिफेंड करने की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, लेकिन कभी-कभी ईमानदारी के साथ भी चीज़ों को देखना चाहिये। हर वक्त उसमें अगर हम सियासत इन्वाल्व करेंगे तो हम नहीं समझते हैं कि हमारा कोई पार्लियामेंट के अंदर बड़ा रोल है। आज यहां पर खुल कर बहस हुई। दोनों तरफ से यहां बातें रखी गई। अहलुवालिया साहब और खास तौर से सिंगला साहब ने भरपूर तरीके से यहां अपनी बात रखी, लेकिन वह हाउस को उस तरीके से कंविंस नहीं कर पाए जिस तरीके से उनको करना चाहिये था। क्योंकि उनका सैशन चल रहा है और यह इश्यू जो है वह एक पेपर में आया और पेपर में आने के बाद उस पर एक पूरा हंगामा हुआ। अगर यह इतनी बड़ी वहां पर घपलेबाजी थी तो फिर दूसरे पेपरों में भी आना चाहिये था। लेकिन एक ही पेपर और एक ही पोलिटीकल पार्टी अगर उसको उस तरीके से ले रही है तो फिर मैं नहीं समझता हूं और जहां तक इन्क्वायरी का सवाल रहा, इन्क्वायरी इस पर हो, मगर सी०ए०जी० की रिपोर्ट आनी चाहिये। उसके बाद पोलिटीकल जो पार्लियामेंटरी पार्टी है उसको पूरे तरीके से गौर करें। गौर करने के बाद अगर उसमें कुछ कमियां रह गई हैं या उसमें कोई घपला है तो उसको ईमानदारी के साथ हमें देखना चाहिये।

यही बात कह करके मैं आपसे विदा लेता हूं।

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Assam): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I entirely agree with my predecessor who has said that this very outwardly important subject, debate, has centred more around political considerations than the actual position *vis-a-vis* the country as a whole. It has become very distressing for me to state that coming over here—I mean this Parliament—I personally feel, as one of the senior Members of this House has said, whatever was learnt, whatever we taught as teachers—I am always proud to introduce myself as a teacher—had been of little avail or no avail in the context of the happenings in our Independent years. I am a freedom fighter. I staked my life for the sake of the country, taking recourse to some unsavoury, and even illegal, acts in my youth. This is certainly not the country which we dreamt of. This is not the country which our leaders—Gandhiji and later on, Jayaprakashji and others—dreamt of putting before us. Sir, this is my second year in the House and most of the time, we have been passing the days here only in respect of one scam or the other, one thing or the other. Very little have we thought, very little have we done, for doing something tangible for the welfare of the common people and for the welfare of the country as a whole. Sir, excuse me for being a little emotional. We sometimes feel, in our eventless days that we here have forgotten even the very maxim that you always are supposed to salute in respect of the National Flag. Sometimes, I even go to the extent of asking myself whether it is high time we changed the motto we have, *Satyameva Jayate* and if possible, made it, *Mithyameva Jayate*. This has precisely become the fact in so far as some of the scams are concerned.

Today's subject is a so-called scam and the main argument that has been advanced by some of our hon. friends is on diversion of funds. I was the principal

of a very big college for 37 years. Without resorting to diversion in our statistics, nothing could be done for the improvement of the college because, as has been said by Gurudasji and others, grants come on the 25th or the 27th of March and they relate to the particular year which will end by the 31st March. Is it humanly possible to spend all the funds in the course of three or four days? Therefore, when diversion of funds was sought to be raised very seriously here, I was only laughing at them. It appears as if these people have no experience whatsoever to administer the funds. They have no practical training in this respect and the only thing is that since Ms. Mamta Banerjee has taken a stand against the Government, something should be done, this way or that way. The other troublesome situation in which I find myself is: "What is the total amount of scam?" Is it Rs. 5,500 crores or is it Rs. 4,500 crores or is it Rs. 2,500 crores?

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: The figure of Rs. 5,500 crores has been reported in the Press.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You tell us the exact amount. We would be enlightened. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Vayalar Ravi, you have a much better information about various scams. Let him speak.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: I am not prepared to accept anything. I really find myself in trouble on this score. They have not been able to assess as to what the total amount involved in the scam is. Fifteen days of this Session have already passed in discussing various scams. We have been switching over from one scam to another scam. For instance, Bihar. I don't call it a scam. But Bihar is full of scams. Then I come to the events in Maharashtra. It was not a scam. But it was much worse than that. Now, the present issue is regarding the diversion of funds. I do not know whether more such things are likely to come up in the days to come. I would like to put one question to you. Have we done anything concrete for the people for whom we are supposed to do it? We are on the threshold of the 50th year of our independence—the golden jubilee year of our independence. Would it be too much for me to ask all the seven hundred odd Members of Parliament to take an oath here that after the golden jubilee year of our independence, we shall create such an atmosphere that there will be no scams whatsoever in this country? Can't we do that? If we give a real thought to this proposition, we can do a lot. Would it be too much for me or would it be irrational for me or would it be emotional for me to say that? Why can't we take a lead on that score? We have become tired of all these scams. We have become tired of all these things. Let us do something. Let us put a question to ourselves. Are we really free from any of these irregularities? Are we free from the so-called overspending? Therefore, I take recourse to this sort of a thing. Let us put this question to ourselves whether we have done anything for the downtrodden of this country who have sent us here. What are we doing here in the present Session? What have we done in some other Sessions? We have been discussing negative aspects of our political life, administration, acceptance of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, then withholding it after some time after the report was laid on the Table of the House and so on. Of course, this did not include the revision of pay scales of the Members of Parliament. I would like to speak out the mind of many hon. Members. If we do not get money through TA, DA,...

I think we simply cannot do anything with Rs. 2,500 a month. Leaving this aside, what we are all concerned is to do some harm to our antagonistic parties. Self and self alone, and nothing else, is uppermost in our minds. Therefore, when we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of

our Independence the grand programmes may dazzle the world at large—let us bring out the lacunae. Let us have the courage to express our own shortcomings in public life, the defects in our political system. Let us correct it. Let this be our motto in the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence. The 21st century is going to be a century of scientific and technological marvels. We have to cope with the unseen and untold situations and problems. Let us marshal our capabilities and all our resources for a better life in the planet and face the mysterious future with wisdom, faith, self-respect and self-evaluation of all our achievements in various fields of human behaviour. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri R. Margabandu. I am sure you will be very brief.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Yes, Sir.

Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, the issue regarding the diversification of central funds by the State Governments has been raised in this august House on several occasions. Mostly these funds are allotted for the uplift of the rural areas and for the benefit of the Backward Classes and people living in hilly areas. Now on many occasions the funds from the Central Government are brought into the Personal Ledger Account. It is said that PLA is meant for the revenue—rent, taxes and tolls—collected at the local level. The money is withdrawn from this account after passing a resolution at the Zilla Parishad level or at the Panchayat Samiti level. So, this amount goes to that account and the Accountant General has no control over the PLA. Opening of Personal Ledger Account is a scientific way of corruption and misuse of Central funds which are given for the laudable object of uplift of the common people. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta referred to 13 States where the Central funds have been mis-utilised or diverted. If that is the case, it cannot be excused. As a matter of fact, in the newspapers it is reported, "Left denies PLA scandal, but admits lapses". In one newspaper it is reported, "In rainy season money was lying idle. So, we have diverted it". It is an admission by the West Bengal Government itself. The Accountant General says, "West Bengal Government's practice of transferring Central funds is a fraud on the Constitution". So, this is an admission by the West Bengal Government itself. In this way the Government itself has admitted the diversion of funds. Not only West Bengal but 13 other States have also diverted these funds. This will lead to misappropriation. My learned friend has said that misutilisation does not amount to misappropriation. If the money is not accounted for it will definitely be misappropriation. When the funds are sent to a State Government, these funds are utilised through the district Collector. My humble submission is that while utilising the funds Members of Parliament may also be taken into confidence. Members of Parliament can be included in a Committee meant for utilisation of funds. Then the Members of Parliament will be accountable to the Central Government. In this way we can solve this problem. Thank you.

श्री सतीश प्रधान (महाराष्ट्र): धन्यवाद महोदय, मैं सब के भाषण सुन रहा था और सब के विचार सुने। मैं एकाउंट्स का स्टूडेंट नहीं हूं, मैंने उसमें कुछ पढ़ाई नहीं की है। लेकिन सब की बात सुनते हुए जो कुछ मैं समझ पाया उस विषय पर मैं जरा कुछ कहना चाहूंगा जो अनुभव है मुझे। यहां रूरल डेवलपमेंट का अलग-अलग काम का पैसा वेस्ट बंगाल सरकार ने पर्सनल लेजर एकाउंट में डाला है। ऐसा भी बताया गया कि पर्सनल लेजर एकाउंट में नहीं और दूसरे एकाउंट में डाला गया है। मेरा अनुभव ऐसा है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के पास या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का लोकल बॉडी के पास कभी भी कोई पैसा जाता है ग्रांट्स का हो या किसी और का हो, वह पैसा कभी भी टाइम पर नहीं जाता । कोई टाइम ऐसा हो जाता है कि वह पैसा 31 मार्च से पहले खत्म करना है लेकिन अप्रैल महीने में पैसे का चैक आता है और मई महीने में भी पैसा आता है। यह वस्तु-स्थिति ऐसी है। जो रेग्यूलरली ऐसा हो रहा है

तो इसके लिए हमारे नियमों में, कानूनों में कुछ अलग से संशोधन, या प्रावधान कर सकते हैं या नहीं, इस विषय पर हमारे मंत्री जी प्रकाश डालें।

अलग-अलग प्रांतों में ऐसा चलता है और जो सब लोग यहां बात करते हैं तो उसमे संशोधन या कुछ प्रावधान करने की कोशिश की है या नहीं और अगर की है तो वह क्या है यह भी मैं जानना चाहूंगा। मैं यह भी समझना चाहता हूं कि यहां बात की गई कि बियरर चैक से पैसा इधर से निकाल कर दूसरे एकाउंट में डाला गया तो सबसे बड़ी आपत्तिजनक बात मुझे यह लगती है कि गवर्नमेंट का पैसा बियरर चैक से निकालने का कैसे प्रावधान हो सकता है, क्यों होता है तथा बियरर चैक से पैसा क्यों निकाला जाता है? जब 1967 में मैं थाना म्युनिसेपेलिटी में नगर सेवक चुनकर आया था तो हमारे यहां ऐसी परिस्थिति थी बियरर चैक से पैसा देते थे। जब इस मामले में पैसा इस ढंग से दिया गया तो म्युनिसेपेलिटी को बर्खास्त करने के लिए नोटिस दिया गया मैं यहां ऐसा नहीं कह रहा हूं कि यह सरकार बर्खास्त करो। लेकिन इस ढंग से व्यवहार करना यह कभी भी उचित नहीं होगा, उसका समर्थन करना बिल्कुल गलत होगा। जब यह सरकार का पैसा है और पब्लिक के ट्रस्टी बनकर इस सदन में आकर बैठते हैं तो हमारे लिए यह बात आपत्तिजनक होगी यदि हम इसका समर्थन करें। बियरर चैक का कभी व्यवहार नहीं होना चाहिये। जो भी व्यवहार होना है वह क्लियर होना चाहिये। यहां यूटिलाइजेशन सार्टिफिकेट के बारे में बात हुई। महोदय, मुझे मालूम है, मैं जानता हूं कि कोई भी सरकार का पैसा किसी काम के लिए दिया जाए तो उसके बाद उसके लिए यूटिलाइजेशन सार्टिफिकेट ठीक ढंग से देना चाहिए और पूरी जिम्मेदारी के साथ देना चाहिये। यहां सदन के सामने ऐसी बात आई है कि यूटिलाइजेशन सार्टिफिकेट गलत दिया गया, ऐसा रिपोर्ट में आया है जो यहां पढ़कर बताया गया। अगर यह होगा तो यह दूसरी सीरियस बात होगी। और इस बात का समर्थन करना भी ठीक नहीं होगा। इस बात का मंत्री जी यदि खुलासा करें और सदन को जानकारी दें तो अच्छा रहेगा। इतना ही मैं सदन के सामने कहना चाहता हूं। एक और आखिरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे दोस्त बिप्लव दासगुप्त जी या गुरूदास दासगुप्त जी, यहां पर जब कोई भी किसी की भी बात चलती है, कोई विषय आता है तो उस पर टूट पड़ते हैं और कहते हैं कि इसको हटा दो, उसको बरखास्त करो आदि। इस तरह से वह बात करते हैं। तो मैं उनको कहना चाहता हूं कि यहां इस विषय पर भी आप जरा कुछ प्रकाश डालें। महोदय, सब लोग जब बात करते हैं, कोई काम करते हैं जब कोई गाड़ी चलती है तो गाड़ी से धुंआ भी उठता है तब यह कहते हैं कि सब खत्म कर दो। यहां पर इस प्रकार की भूमिका लेकर अगर और बैठते हैं तो आप भी उतने ही स्वच्छ होने चाहिए और आप कितने स्वच्छ हैं, यह बताने का मौका आ गया है। आज जिस ढंग से शांति से सब लोग जो बोल रहे हैं और आप सुन रहे हैं तो ऐसा ही बर्ताव अगर आप सदन में रखें तो मैं आपका आभारी होऊंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): आपकी बात वह बड़े ध्यान से सुन रहे थे। जब आपने कहा तो बिप्लव दासगुप्त जी आपकी बात बड़े ध्यान से सुनने लगे।

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on a subject which I believe is of great importance. Now, we have been observing how thousands of crores of rupees have been spent for the uplift of the poor, the unemployed, etc., etc., and we also know the result. Somebody quoted a former Prime Minister as to how only 15 per cent of the money that is given by the Centre actually reaches the beneficiary. It is true. I have personal experience of it. In Kerala, in a Centrally-administered tribal block in Palaghat district called Attappadi, where there are only 25,000 Adivasis, in the course of last ten years, something like Rs. 300 crores were sunk. I visited that tribal block last month. I found there, very poor cottages which were in the minimum possible living conditions. The entire money was siphoned off by the local political leaders and the bureaucrats. I remember, there was a time when it was considered a punishment to be posted to Attappadi. Now I understand there is rivalry between officers to get posted there.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Are we discussing Kerala or West Bengal?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: The money that was sent for the benefit of the poor did not really reach the intended persons. It reached elsewhere. It is only in that context that I talked of Kerala. The other

day, in reply to Question No. 102, the hon. Minister said, "Out of 25 States, we found there were 20 States where diversion of funds has taken place." Funds intended for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as well as for the Employment Assurance Scheme were diverted. Kerala has the dubious distinction of being the second largest State where diversion has taken place. Rs. 6064 crores which was set apart for ensuring employment and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was diverted.....*(Interruptions)*...Kindly bear with me. I am only giving an example of how money sent by the Centre has actually not reached to poor but has reached elsewhere. Everybody knows about it. This is not a secret.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The period for which this was covered was 1989—1994 and that was the time when the CPI (M) was not in power in Kerala but some other party was in power.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: That is why he is not coming forward with a Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Credit for diversification goes to the Left Front as well as the Congress. There is no doubt about that. The point here is everybody agrees that the amount set apart for the benefit of the rural poor people does not reach them; it reaches elsewhere. This is the malady observed by everybody. Now, how to set right these things? Now, when somebody points out for the first time in a big way the most authoritative body in this country, the Comptroller and Auditor General has found out certain very serious lapses and has brought them the notice of the nation. Now this is the time when we have to look into it seriously. Now, at this point of time our friends are saying, many other States are also doing, now this is going on for so many years. These are not answers, that it is being done by every other State or it is being done for so many years. Now a time has come when a thief has been caught red-handed. Now what are we going to do about that? This is the basic issue. Regarding this matter a mere allegation of the other opposite parties need not be taken seriously but the Comptroller and Auditor General of India whose Report No. 4 dated 31st March, 1996 is published by the Secretary of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; at that time they had a test check of one district only of how this programme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been implemented in one district. Kindly permit me to quote a few sentences on this. This is the picture of how this money has been misutilised. I am quoting: "For the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the North 24, Paraganas Zilla Parished received funds of Rs. 107.28 crores from the Government between 1989-90 to 1995-96. Test check of accounts of the Zilla Parished in October 1994 and July 1996 was made and it was revealed that out of the 107.28 crores, Rs. 42.21 crores were withdrawn by "self cheques" a point which has been noticed by many, it should be seriously taken objection to— "....and kept in the savings bank accounts in seven district banks during the period from 1989-90 to 1995-96 and were allowed to be paid to the Gram Panchayat by the Zilla Parishad direct. The amount so segregated from Zilla Parishad was shown as expenditure without its actual utilisation." No utilisation, but it is shown as expenditure. Now another serious aspect of the delink comes here in the next paragraph. I am quoting, "No cash book was maintained for the transaction was held in the bank since 1989-90 and the amount kept in the books thus remained out of account. In January 1996, Rs. 1.43 crores held in six out of seven bank accounts were transferred to personal ledger account of the Zilla Parishad. The pass book in respect of savings bank accounts were not produced to audit though specifically called for. As such, the extent of deposit to the savings bank accounts withdrawn therefrom and interest accrued from time to time were not ascertainable during 1995-96." This is what the CAG says. Therefore, Sir, it is

not a question mere diversion of funds, intended for one project but used for another project. That we can understand. There can be some instance even though technically not justifiable. I will not again give another example from Kerala. When there was flood damage, some money was collected and that money was spent for the purpose of constructing village offices. This is a case of diversion of funds. But this can be justified to some extent because there is something which you can see which you can check up. But here is a case where money is kept in private banks, but there are no pass-books and they are not produced before the CAG even though he asked for them. This is the complaint which the CAG made and this can be referred to at page 88 of his report.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Ahluwalia also quoted this.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: You don't maintain the accounts; you don't submit the accounts or pass-books to the CAG even though he asks for them. It is a very serious matter. It is not a case of simple diversion of funds. We have a case here where we don't know where the money has gone. As rightly pointed out by my friend, a good portion of this money must have gone into the pockets of the party cadre. I am inclined to believe that because I have the experience. I will give one solid example.

An incident took place in Puthige panchayat which is in the Kasargode district. This is a Marxist panchayat. Its President is also a Marxist. The name of the President is Zohra, a newly elected woman President. She is an honest lady. Her predecessor, who also belongs to CPM, told her that in any contract, 10% would be given by the contractor and it would go to the party and that it should be kept separately. The next day, he sent a slip to her saying, "Kindly send a receipt for Rs. 50,000/- towards construction of a road." This honest CPM Panchayat President refused to oblige his request and the request of her party bosses. What was the results? She was gheraoed. She could not go to the panchayat. This happened in the case of this Panchayat President, who is a Muslim lady. This is a classic example. There was social boycott. She had to face many other troubles. People came forward and extended her a helping hand. In the light of such type of experiences, I am inclined to believe the charges made by many of my colleagues that this unaccounted money, which has become difficult to trace, must have necessarily gone into the pockets of the party cadres. Because of the efforts of the cadres, they are able to continue with this for long, year after year, election after election... (*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER: God also cannot save you.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Our friends are very scientific. There is a scientific socialism. I think it is a case of scientific corruption done in a very scientific manner. By manipulating the accounts, large amounts of money given by the Central Government and intended for the poor, is pocketed by the party. It is a very serious matter. Therefore, I say it is a fit case which should be enquired into in all its details. It is only by accident that the CAG took notice of some of the facts. There is a need for a comprehensive enquiry because we are concerned. This money was given by the Government of India and was intended for the unemployed youth and poor women. It is this money which was being misutilised for other purposes, very often, in a questionable manner. There may be other thieves. But here we have caught hold of the thieves red-handedly. There should be a comprehensive enquiry because by that enquiry we can see to it that the money intended for the poor people does actually reach them.

Thank you Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri Ashok Mitra, you wanted to make a few points.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I have no intention of raising the temperature of the House. I will merely draw attention to a number of features of the particular discussion being held this afternoon. First I have to say it with deep humility...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: But where was the need to field the star speaker on this issue? Nilotpal Basu and others can take care of it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It is only a brief intervention.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Anyway, firstly, I say it with deep humility and let me repeat the expression that we have set up a very bad precedent in organising this discussion in this House. This doesn't belong to our province and what will happen now if tomorrow or the day after one of our State Legislatures chooses to discuss the nation's foreign policy or defence policy? We have opened the door for that kind of thing merely because some of us have an animus against the West Bengal Government. This is something I would like you to think deeply about what is happening.

Secondly, I also find very alarming the kind of attack that has been launched against the comptroller and Auditor General of India. Look at the absurdity of it. On the one hand, they claim that they CAG's Report, on the other they have gone on record that they have no trust in CAG. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is a constitutional authority. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): A reference was made to some MP going in PIL.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: But that cannot be attributed to this House and the hon. Members....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Some MP. I didn't refer to anybody...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: You see, you asked for CBI... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, because Pillai has made a reference, I would like to tell you that in Kerala there was AG's Report. On that Report, instead of making a PAC study, Mr. Ramachandran Pillai's Government ordered a vigilance inquiry. You have done it in Kerala. You have done it.

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Please. *(Interruptions)* Shastriji, please. Let Shri Ashok Mitra finish.

SHRI VAYLAR RAVI: We want an inquiry on corruption, not on CAG.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Ravi you have had your say earlier. Let him finish now.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: I thought Mr. Ravi is a good friend of mine and a great democrat. Shall I review my....

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: No, no You continue.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: So, let me come back to the point I was trying to make. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is a constitutional authority. Nobody can challenge its independence and it would be a kind of criminal offence if you try to influence it. You cannot claim that this Government of West Bengal has a special symbiotic relationship with the CAG's office. When the whole issue came before the High Court, the CAG all along the line supported the State Goverment's point of view "That there is absolutely no case of divulging any of the discussions that we are having internally with the State Government. We will submit our report to the State Governor and the State Governor will place it before the State legislature, and this will be examined by the

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Public Accounts Committee of the State legislature", which, Mr.Ravi will be interested to know, is currently being presided over by his and my friend, Mr. Subroto Mukherjee, General Secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. he had gone through...

SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: I think Mr. Satya Bapuli is the Chairman of PAC.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Shastriji, I know you are very frustrated. You had to move from West Bengal to Uttar Pradesh.....

SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: But the Chairman of PAC is Staya Bapuli.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: You are most welcome. We will welcome you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It doesn't matter. Some Member of the Opposition is the Chairman. That's all. Mr. Ashok Mitra, you continue. (*Interruptions*) Some Member of the Opposition is the Chairman. Shastriji, let him finish.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: The third thing is ... ...(*Interruptions*)... that this is the game. The whole format is there. You are quoting the CAG. But, what are you quoting? There are two things. Number one, what Mr. Vayalar Ravi quoted was a communication from the CAG's representative in the State to the Government of West Bengal and this is the standard practice when the accounts of a State Government are audited. The auditor's men make some points, the State Government's people respond and finally they try to arrive at a preliminary compilation. This is what Mr. Vayalar Ravi has said. It is very interesting to know that there is a newspaper in Calcutta whose circulation is falling, falling at a very rapid rate. So, it was hunting for a sensation and they grabbed this thing; somebody offered them this sheet of paper which is a part of communication between the auditors and the State Government, which is not a finished document. The CAG has not made up its mind, and the fact that the CAG has not made up its mind is the version which the CAG presented to the High Court. So, what all I am saying is, let us have some sense of proportion. Now, the Minister has quoted to us the figures about misultilisation and the other category, over the last seven or eight years. It is total for all the 30 States of India taken together. Rupees three crores, rupees four crores, rupees five crores, at the most over this entire period. Now, let us have some sense of proportion. We are the Members of the highest legislative body of the land. Is it, therefore, possible that four thousand or five thousand rupees have been diverted? Now, if it had happened, we must say that the CAG must be terribly, terribly incomptent, if this thing could have happened. It has not happened, it cannot happen. Therefore, again you are making it—I know you want to make it—a political cause, and we do so, but all I would say is do not do so at the expense of the institutions that we have. This is what I find terribly frightening. But, it does not mean that the State Governments don't make any mistakes. Human beings make mistakes; political parties make mistakes. The State Governments which also present political parties, here and there, they may be committing errors of judgment or mistakes and it should be our endeavour to see that these mistakes get corrected. But, instead of friendly advice—this is where you have gone wrong—you try to discover motivations, sensationalise it, with balzing headlines in newspapers. Then, you come and raise a hullabaloo in the House, and you have been successful. I think this is not the way to go about. This is where we are harming our own cause, if we are proceeding like this.

Finally, I have just another point to make and that is that in our type of federal arrangement, we have to be careful that we don't adopt any stance which harms a particular group of people. Already there is enough of tension and disunity in our system. Some we admit,

some we don't admit. We find it extremely reluctant to admit that the North-Eastern States are as good as gone to us. It is a harsh reality, but this is exactly what is happening. Is there a way out? My friend Shri Chaliha said about what is happening there. Similarly, now what is happening? You are attacking the Panchayat accounts. Who gets the Panchayat money? The poor. Some would interpret it that this urban crowd has not liked the experiment that has been going on in West Bengal over the last two years with the fair deal to the nation, to the country's poor, to the States' poor which is why they are making this hoarse cry about nepotism in Panchayat funds. Once again I can only appeal, please! This is a very delicate matter and just for gaining some political advantage let us not do something which corrodes the core of our polity. This is all I wanted to say.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. COAST-GUARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Thank you, Dr. Ashok Mitra. Before the hon. Minister, Shri Yerrannaidu replies to the debate, I have an announcement to make. The hon. Minister of State for Defence is here. I have to inform Members that on 4th August, 1997, a motion regarding reference of the Coast-Guard (Amendment) Bill, 1996 to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha was adopted by the House.

The names of Members nominated to the said Committee are as follow :

Shri John F. Fernandes—*Chairman*

Shri Surinder Kumar Singla

Shri K. Rahman Khan

Smt. Veena Verma

Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave

Shri O. Rajagopal

Shri Wasim Ahmad

Shri Ram Deo Bhandari

Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai

Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy

Shri Ish Dutt Yadav

Shri N. Thalavai Sundaram

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta

Shri Satish Pradhan

Shri P. Soundararajan

The Committee may submit its report by the first day of the next Session of the Rajya Sabha.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Diversion of funds to the tune of Rs. 4,500 crores to Personal Ledger Account by West Bengal Government—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have carefully heard the speeches made and the questions for clarification raised by hon. Members. This is the first Calling Attention Motion for me as Minister of Rural Areas and Employment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I am sure, in the meantime you have covered many points. Try to be precise and brief.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: First of all, I want to clarify the point raised by some hon. Members quoting newspaper which put the figure at Rs. 5,500 crores and the concerned Member said, Rs. 4,500 crores. Since the inception of this Ministry, 1985-86 to 1996-97, under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Rs. 1450 crores were released to the West Bengal Government. Under Employment Assurance Scheme which the then Government introduced, from the year 1993-94 till 1996-97, West Bengal's share was Rs. 311 crores. These are the figures since its inception. So, we are discussing about the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and EAS. With regard to the CAG's report I